

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

In

BSC 2020 Foreign Languages and Cultures Day

JOHN R. BAWDEN, Ph.D.: He is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Montevallo. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California-Riverside. His areas of expertise include the Cold War, South American militaries, and U.S.-Latin American relations. His most recent book, *Latin American Soldiers: Armed Forces in the Region's History*, was published in 2019. His op-ed, "My fellow Americans, you should visit Cuba," appeared in *The Seattle Times* recently.

MARY HAMIL GILBERT, Ph.D.: She is an Instructor of Classics at Birmingham-Southern College. Her academic interests include Greek and Roman drama, mythology, and reception & translation studies.

ETHAN EVANS: He is a freshman from Huntsville, Alabama. He is majoring in Film and Media Studies. He loves traveling, international film, and learning foreign languages.

LINDSEY GIGLIO: She is a Senior in Spanish for Workplace Major and Business Minor.

JENNIFER GROUT: She grew up in a family of musicians and began her artistic career as a classical singer. A native of Boston, MA, she studied at Longy School of Music and Walnut Hill School for the Arts. Later, she attended McGill University in Montreal, Canada, where she obtained her bachelor's degree in classical voice. While living in Montreal, she developed a great interest in Arabic music; she learned to play the "oud" (Arabic lute) and began listening to well-known Arab singers such as Fairuz and Oum Kalthoum. She quickly became involved in the community of Arabic music in Montreal where she studied with several teachers, including Aziz Daouni, Zied Benamor and Mohamed Masmoudi, and picked up a side job of performing Arabic music regularly at a local Syrian restaurant called "Kaza Maza." Jennifer began an ongoing study of Tarab singing with Mr. Mohsen Souad, the administrator of an exclusive classical Arab vocal music forum called "Zaman Al Wasl." Throughout her studies, she also performed with the Michigan Arab Orchestra under Michael Ibrahim, and attended renowned Simon Shaheen's Arabic Music Retreat in Massachusetts, where she took voice lessons with Rima Khcheich and had her first solo debut. In 2013, she had the chance to appear on MBC's Arabs Got Talent, singing pieces by Oum Kalthoum and Asmahan, and managed to come in second place. She went on to participate in several festivals and performances in different countries around the

world including Lebanon, Dubai, Kuwait, Tunisia, Morocco, Canada, Qatar, and the USA. Jennifer continues to strive to serve as a bridge between "East and West" through relentless and unapologetic dialogue and the limitlessness of artistic expression.

ANNA SCOTT: She graduated from BSC in 2012 with a BS in Chemistry. After teaching for 5 years in the Birmingham area and getting a Master of Education from UAB she moved to China to teach high school chemistry. Anna currently lives in Beijing and is in her second year of teaching abroad.

CONNOR HANSEN: He is a BSC Senior in History. He is from Fort Collins, Colorado. His favorite pastimes include reading, spending time with friends, and enjoying life.

GRIFFITH HAWK: He is a current BSC student and Boren Language Scholarship recipient from Arab, AL. He studied Mandarin in China last semester at Guangxi Normal University in Guilin, China. Next year he is attending Villanova Law School.

LANA HIGGINS: She is a freshman from Birmingham, Alabama. Her major is history in secondary education. She is extremely interested in working with underfunded education systems.

CATALINA LATHAN: She is a freshman from Birmingham, Alabama. She plans to major in Biology and hopefully a minor in Arabic. She loves reading and learning about foreign languages and cultures.

CLAIRE LESAR: She is a Senior from Chattanooga, Tennessee, she is a double major in Studio Art and Art History with a minor in Classics. She is currently the President of the Art Students League and Vice President of Generation Action on campus.

WARDA MERCHANT: She is a BSC sophomore. She is from Memphis, Tennessee, and plans on majoring in Pre-Med/Biology. Her favorite pastimes include drawing/painting, service in the city, and reading.

ALLI MESSICK: She is a senior Spanish for the Workplace major. She traveled to Ecuador for her junior year Jan-Term and it was a life changing experience! She hopes everyone has the opportunity to travel abroad.

COLE MYERS: He is an Asian Studies major and a Chinese minor. He is still deciding which of Sociology and Religion to major and which to minor

in. He is going into Chinese Studies because he loves Chinese religion, philosophy, and language.

JULIA SCARINCI: She is a freshman from Brazil. She is majoring in Architectural Studies with a minor in Urban Environmental Studies. She loves to draw and paint.

MAGALI VALDEZ PADILLA. She is a freshman from Hoover, Alabama. She wants to major in Spanish and Pre-Law with a minor in Arabic. She loves learning about foreign languages and cultures.

ALAINA PINNICK: She is a senior Biology Major with a Chinese minor. She likes to travel and spend time with friends.

LEO PROCTOR: He is a freshman from Saint Paul, Minnesota. He would like to major either in History or English with a minor in Arabic. He loves reading and learning about foreign languages and cultures.

LUCIE RIVIERE: She is a junior from France. She is majoring in Applied Foreign Languages which includes learning languages and the entrepreneur sector. She loves traveling, trying dishes from other countries, watching Netflix and spending quality time with friends and family.

LITZY SALAZAR: She is a freshman and an accounting major at BSC. She was originally born in Mexico but was raised in Homewood, Alabama. In her free time, she enjoys visiting local coffee shops and eating sushi.

RYAN SHIFLETT: He is a senior student from Birmingham, AL majoring in Global and Comparative Studies and minoring in Spanish in the Workplace. He is learning Chinese and planning on moving to China where he will go into the Chinese tourism industry. He intends to start his own tourism company that would specialize in travel between Asia and Latin America.

AIDAN SULLIVAN: He is a senior history major and Chinese minor from Nashville, TN. He has been studying Chinese for four years which led him to study abroad in Hong Kong and travel in mainland China.

AMBER THOMSON: She plays soccer on the BSC Women's team. She is from Charlotte North Carolina where she lives with her parents and older brother. She plans to graduate with a major in psychology and earn a minor in Chinese. Her future plan is to become a forensic psychologist because of her interest in criminology and behavior.

NOAH TODD: He is a sophomore in Sociology. He likes finding new music in Arabic and eating spicy food. He hopes to study abroad in North Africa in the upcoming year.

KHARISMA TUCKER: Senior Asian Studies Major. Future Nuclear and Missile Operations Air Force Officer upon graduation in May 2020.

KATHERINE WILLIAMS: She is a Sophomore Global Comparative Studies major from Nashville, TN. She currently plans on getting a master's in International Relations before going to work for the State Department office of Global Youth Development.