



GLOBAL LEADERS OF PENN STATE

Global and International Studies
Monthly Email Newsletter

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WELCOME

by Abigail Picozzi, Managing Editor

Hello! Welcome to the December edition of the Global and International Studies Newsletter for the 2023–24 school year. We’re so excited to continue sharing stories from the GLIS community! In this issue, we are featuring the recent GLIS at Work event, embedded courses offered this spring, a spotlight on CAS 271N, an internship experience from Lauren Forbes, upcoming cultural awareness events on campus, and celebrating GLIS majors graduating this semester!

If you have any feedback or would like to submit a story, please email glis@psu.edu. We look forward to hearing from you, and cannot wait to continue sharing stories and experiences in GLIS!

GLIS AT WORK SERIES

by Abigail Picozzi

GLIS at Work Series with the Career Enrichment Network

On Thursday, November 2, the Career Enrichment Network (CEN) held a special event to give GLIS students ideas on how to market their Liberal Arts degrees effectively to employers, as well as tips on how to utilize CEN to their advantage.

Marketable Traits

CEN representatives gave great insight onto skillsets that are unique to students in Liberal Arts; specifically, “soft skills.” GLIS students garner a host of soft skills through the classes offered here at Penn State—traits like flexibility, creativity, and versatility—all can’t be taught, but are key characteristics that employers are searching for.

Career Readiness

As part of the event, a CEN representative showed numerous LinkedIn accounts of real GLIS alums as examples of how GLIS can translate into various careers. CEN also provided mock résumés to show students how to best describe GLIS-related coursework and activities in potential job applications or interviews.

Professional Opportunities

It’s not uncommon for students in Liberal Arts to feel disadvantaged when searching for internships or research opportunities. However, CEN is a great resource for these exact issues. Representatives provided crucial insight into how CEN can work with GLIS students to find beneficial opportunities that cater to their unique experiences and skillsets.

Global Experiences

Experience abroad—whether it be for an internship, research, or education—is an extremely desirable trait that employers search for. Luckily, GLIS is the perfect major for these opportunities, and CEN can help GLIS students find programs that will best contribute to their professional and educational goals. CEN even offers enrichment funding for students looking to go abroad!

If you’re interested in learning more about any of these topics or think that the Career Enrichment Network could benefit you, schedule a meeting with a representative today on [Nittany Lion Careers!](#)

EMBEDDED SPRING COURSES FOR GLIS STUDENTS

by Abigail Picozzi

With scheduling season upon us, here are some classes with embedded trips to keep on your radar while you choose courses for the spring 2024 semester!

Criminology 425 - Organized Crime

Crim 425 is a 3-credit, online, asynchronous course that focuses on the theoretical explanations for, the nature of, and the legal and law enforcement responses to organized crime. The course includes an embedded spring break trip to the Caribbean island of Curaçao, where students will learn about organized criminal activities in the Caribbean from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Consulate, Dutch Royal Maréchaussée, and Curaçao Coast Guard, Customs, and police officials. Crim 425 falls under the Global Conflict pathway, making it a great choice for any GLIS student.

African Studies / Linguistics 397 - Special Topics

AFR/LING 397 will provide an introduction to how languages function in a wide variety of African cultures, including case studies from North, East, West and Southern Africa. The capstone of the course will be a two-week trip for interested students to study linguistic practices in Benin, West Africa. This course does not assume any specific background, though it is best if you have taken any course in linguistics, applied linguistics, or African studies, so you can bring those perspectives with you. Specific course topics include the multilingualism in Africa, linguistic traditions such as storytelling and ceremonies, African literature, and language development.

GLIS 400Y - Seminar in Global and International Studies

The GLIS Seminar focuses on critical themes relevant to all GLIS majors. Topics of GLIS 400Y vary each semester, but for the spring of 2024, Krista Brune has chosen to focus on the topic of Global Portugal, which examines forms of globalization and its ramifications in the past and the present via the example of Portugal. With this, there is an optional 1-credit embedded trip to Lisbon during spring break, giving GLIS students the chance to immerse themselves in the rich Portuguese culture and history.

COURSE HIGHLIGHT: INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

by Olivia Bratton

CAS 271N Intercultural Communication Global Conflict and Culture and Identity Pathway

Intercultural Communication (CAS 271N) is an introductory survey course that exposes students to numerous issues, trends, and historical perspectives regarding communication on the domestic and international level. Through its focus on interpersonal, group, and intercultural communication processes, the class intersects across social and behavioral sciences as well as humanities disciplines, allowing students to analyze the class through different lenses.



CAS 271N not only ideally aligns with one GLIS pathway, but it is a course offered for both the global conflict and the culture and identity subcategories. Regarding its relation to global conflict, the course examines topics of language, identity, prejudice, and intergroup relations, all of which possess the potential to inspire conflict if utilized in a dangerous manner. Such aspects such as identity and group relations also directly relate to the culture and identity pathway, where students can use this course to expand their exploration on how global processes manifest into an individual or group's sense of self or other, and vice versa.

The Intercultural Communication course will have you analyzing the relationship between yourself, community, and the globe. In a world where globalization is increasing and impacting many areas of life, it deems vital to expand our knowledge on the communication processes and traditions of other cultures. In this way, relations can be formed and understood most clearly and effectively. If you are searching for an intriguing and beneficial Global Conflict or Culture and Identity pathway course, CAS 271N is a rewarding option.

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

by Lauren Forbes



My Internship

This current semester, I am doing an internship with the United States Department of State. It is a year-long internship through the Virtual Student Foreign Service program. Throughout my internship, I have worked with several U.S. Embassies, including the U.S. Embassies of Freetown (Sierra Leone), Geneva (Switzerland), Georgetown (Guyana), and Gaborone (Botswana). I am gaining extremely valuable experience throughout my interactions with federal employees as well as people throughout the world. My internship is with the Office of Global Talent Management, so I am learning so much about how the federal government runs behind the scenes and different positions within the State Department. I am gaining a lot of insight into different parts of the world and their relationship with the United States. Being able to get so much global experience, virtually, during the semester is priceless.

How GLIS Prepared Me for This Role

My education through the Global and International Studies major has effectively equipped me with the tools to be successful in this internship. I have taken several classes within the Culture and Identity pathway, which has helped prepare me to conduct my business with those throughout the world. My pathway, Global Conflict, has given me insight into the sensitivity that exists in certain areas of the world and needs to be acknowledged when doing foreign relations. I believe that GLIS and my chosen pathway made me a top candidate for this competitive internship because of my overall understanding of global studies, and my specialization in conflict relating to so many current events.

Looking Forward

In the future, I plan on pursuing a career within the federal government, with the State Department or another agency. This internship is an excellent experience on my résumé to prepare me for the workforce and career path I plan on going into. Next summer, I hope to continue my work with the State Department with an in-person internship. I would work in either Washington, D.C., or abroad at any of the Embassies. I strive to intern at the U.S. Embassy in London!

UPCOMING LIBERAL ARTS EVENTS

by Valentina Vallejo

Between Propaganda, Polemics, and Philosophy

Location: 102 Weaver Building

Event Type: Lecture



DEC
1
FRI

Discover the mesmerizing tale of Enuma Elish, the Babylonian Epic of Creation, in Penn State's upcoming liberal arts event featuring Yale's Professor Eckart Frahm. Join Professor Frahm on Friday, December 1 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. for a concise exploration of this cuneiform masterpiece's influence across ancient civilizations, its encounters with polemics, and its transformative journey over a millennium.

Mindfulness Monday

Location: 139 Sparks Building

Event Type: Meditation



DEC
4
MON

Experience an hour of relaxation techniques and overall wellness discussions led by Peer Success Coach Sammy Vaillancourt. Sessions happening every Monday!

Spanish Club Meetings

Location: 106 Chambers Building

Event Type: Student Organization



DEC
5
TUE

Enhance your language skills, savor delicious Spanish cuisine, and groove to traditional dance styles like salsa. Don't miss out on the fun – be part of the Spanish Club experience! Meetings start at 6:00 p.m.

Bate-Papo: Portuguese Conversation Hour

Location: 227 Burrowes Building

Event Type: Discussion



DEC
6
WED

Experience Bate-Papo: A Casual Gathering for Portuguese Speakers of All Levels! Immerse yourself in a welcoming atmosphere that encourages idea-sharing, explores Luso-Afro-Brazilian culture, and indulge in delightful Brazilian snacks. Join them at 4:30 pm for an engaging and enjoyable time!

FALL 2023 GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Brisa Luzzi Castro

Global and International Studies major
Social Justice in Education minor
Diversity Studies certificate

“Throughout my time as a student majoring in GLIS, I have been exposed to and engaged in critical theory and advocacy related to a variety of topics such as politics, international relations, global cultures, philosophy, social justice, and many more. GLIS has been something I’ve always been passionate about and could not see myself doing anything else. This is due to its broad perspectives and varying pathways that provide critical analyses of different arenas of the world. A couple of my favorite experiences while studying GLIS have been the positive relationships I have built with my professors, as well as the depth of knowledge I’ve gotten from classes and my outstanding peers.”



Mya Darden

Global and International Studies major
Japanese minor

“Being a GLIS major has allowed me to explore various aspects of culture and community that I didn’t consider beforehand. I am glad I was able to interact with different themes from the global stage. I plan to use this knowledge in my future endeavors. I’m closing one chapter and opening another in my life!”



Dongho Shin

Global and International Studies major

“GLIS was the best choice for me to study what interests me! GLIS offers flexible programs that allow you to study various aspects of social phenomena around the world that suits your interests. What I have learned in Penn State’s GLIS major will be a great experience for my future career!”

GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Emily Talucci

Global and International Studies major

“I really enjoyed my time in the GLIS program as it allowed me to learn more about the world around us and offered me a better worldview. I was able to take classes that I enjoyed along with feeding my curiosity about different cultures and having the amazing chance to study abroad. I am excited to see where the future takes me but had such an amazing experience here.”

Congratulations Fall 2023 Graduates!



Olivia Bratton
Content Writer
GLIS and Political Science majors
Global Conflict pathway
Fourth-Year



Lauren Forbes
Content Writer
GLIS major
Global Conflict pathway
Political Science and
World Literature minors
Third-Year



Abigail Picozzi
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Francophone Studies majors
Culture and Identity pathway
Fourth-Year



Valentina Vallejo
Content Writer
GLIS Alumnus

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If you are interested in submitting a story, please email us at glis@psu.edu.



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