



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 an interview with GLIS adviser, Tom Spencer, a course highlight on CMLIT 143, upcoming events for GLIS students, a spotlight on Kayla Bellotti, GLIS '26, and information about Psi Chi's Undergraduate Research Conference.

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!



PennState
College of the Liberal Arts

INTERVIEW WITH THE GLIS ADVISOR

by Abigail Picozzi



Tom Spencer, Ph.D.
GLIS Academic Adviser

This month, we interviewed Tom Spencer to get his insight on important information and tips that will be especially helpful for GLIS students during upcoming course selection.

What are the best ways to find courses that meet pathway requirements?

The most obvious, and often used, is the Pathways website that is updated every semester. If you want to look beyond the Pathways website, I would recommend searching for courses that satisfy the International Cultures University requirement. This is a good

sign that this course could satisfy Pathways requirements. To be certain that it can count, you'll need to follow the steps detailed in the response to question two below.

I took a course that isn't currently being used towards my GLIS major credits, but I think it would fit well. What is the process for getting this course approved to earn GLIS credits?

You will need a copy of the course syllabus and the course description. Email Professor Sommer Mitchell (sjm6731@psu.edu) and copy me in this email (tns135@psu.edu). In the body of the email include the course description and attach, to the email, the course syllabus. You'll ask Professor Mitchell if course "x" can be considered for Pathway "y." If it is approved, then I will update your audit ("My Academic Requirements," in LionPATH) to show that this course has been approved for a specific Pathway.

What is something you wish your advisees knew before scheduling classes?

It is important to remember the policy that you'll need 12 credits of 400 level course work, in your Pathways, before graduating. These are not easy to find in the summer, and you can't always be sure you'll get these from Study Abroad—unless the course equivalency has already been processed—so I recommend not delaying scheduling 400 level courses. Students can take 400 level courses early on in their studies. BONUS: If you are pursuing the Paterno Fellows Program or are a Schreyer's Honors College student, 400 level courses, in your first four semesters, count as honors classes.

INTERVIEW WITH THE GLIS ADVISOR (cont.)

by Abigail Picozzi

Do you have any tips for success with upcoming scheduling appointments?

Keeping track of Pathways courses, and where they count, is important. Don't assume that what you see in "My Academic Requirements," or your "What if Report" is accurate. More than 50 percent of the time, Pathways courses do not show up where they should. To be a flexible major, we must update our department website with available Pathways courses each semester. Because LionPATH doesn't populate your audit from our department website—it uses the Bulletin instead—courses don't often show up where they should. To be successful, keep a good plan of what your Pathways courses are, and where they are counting. There is a form on our website that you can use to keep track of these called, "Major Form." When coming to our meeting, have your form updated, so I can update your audit ("My Academic Requirements") in our meeting. Note, a meeting isn't always necessary to move courses to their proper place. An email usually suffices.

Keep these helpful ideas in mind during your next scheduling appointment!



COURSE HIGHLIGHT: HUMAN RIGHTS AND WORLD LITERATURE

by Megg Reddy

CMLIT 143: Human Rights and World Literature Human Rights Pathway

Human Rights and World Literature is a Comparative Literature course that examines the relationships between the discussions on human rights and global culture, with a primary focus on the twentieth century, through the use of media, including memoirs, graphic novels, plays, short stories, novels, and films. The definition of “humans” and their rights according to United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, are neither universal nor absolute. Such conceptions are developed side by side with ideas, technologies, and human relations in different global contexts. Understanding the historical evolution and implications of human rights requires inter cultural dialogue.



CMLIT 143 aligns perfectly with the human rights pathway for GLIS majors, as it looks at how the concepts of human rights is portrayed and challenged in these different forms of media, and present a range of viewpoints. Students get to explore how storytelling interacts with human rights violations throughout history, in diverse situations by the means of a comparative analysis. In addition to this, student get to collaborate in teams and research the background of the situation in which these human rights violations are taking place.

Students focus on the way literary and cultural representations of the Holocaust, apartheid, genocide, dictatorships, wars, and torture shape, contest, and extend the concept of human rights. The knowledge gained through examining the relations between aesthetics and ethics provides a better understanding of how cultural norms can reveal or conceal violations. Such examination are important for any student looking to pursue the human rights pathway.

UPCOMING GLIS EVENTS

by Valentina Vallejo

GLIS at Work Series - Alumni Panel

Tuesday, March 19 | 4:30–5:30 p.m. EDT

262 Willard Building

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming GLIS at Work Alumni Panel, which brings together accomplished graduates from our program to showcase the diverse career paths they have pursued since completing their studies. Join us as our panelists offer their valuable insights and inspiration to current GLIS students.

The GLIS at Work Series Alumni Panel is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19 at 4:30 pm. More details, including the Zoom link, are to come. Below are the panelists, who will participate both in person and virtually.



Meet our 2015 alumna, Erin Mullin, a double major in Spanish Language and Literature and GLIS. As the former Student Marshal for the College of Liberal Arts, she was recently promoted to Vice President of People and Culture at Congreso de Latinos Unidos, a Philadelphia-based NGO. *Congreso* focuses on fostering economic self-sufficiency and well-being in predominantly Latino neighborhoods. Her journey exemplifies the impactful paths our alumni forge, making a difference in communities.

Julia Sykes, a 2016 alumna and Paterno Fellow, is currently pursuing dual degrees in Public Policy (MPP) and Social Work (MSW) at the University of Chicago. Previously, she dedicated her efforts to the Refugee Action Network, a statewide advocacy group championing the inclusive integration of refugees in Illinois through policy and education.



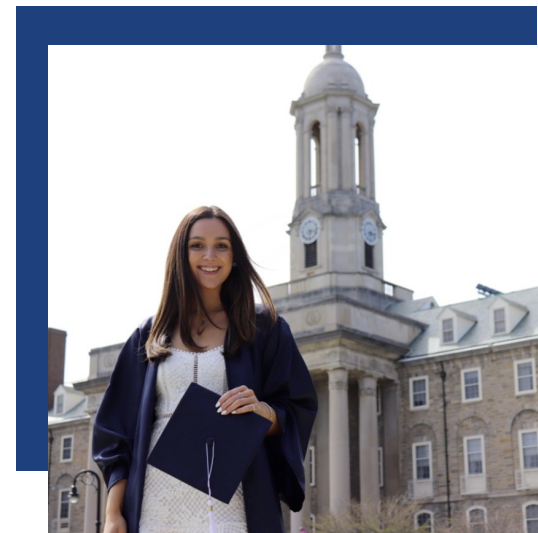
UPCOMING GLIS EVENTS (cont.)

by Valentina Vallejo



Nicholas Bambino is a 2018 graduate from Penn State with a bachelor of arts in GLIS and advanced his education with a master of science in City and Regional Planning from Temple University. Currently, he excels as a Transportation Planner at Foursquare ITP, a leading multi-modal transportation planning firm. Focused on innovative and implementable solutions, Foursquare ITP specializes in planning for non-single occupancy vehicle travel, shaping sustainable and efficient transportation systems.

Kayla Prag, a 2022 graduate with a bachelor of arts in GLIS and Public Relations, along with a minor in Spanish, focused her career in the communications field. She currently holds the position of Assistant Account Executive at BCW Global, a renowned global communications agency specializing in various sectors such as B2B, consumer, corporate, crisis management, healthcare, public affairs, and technology. Kayla's dynamic role at BCW exemplifies the success of our alumni in influential and diverse professional arenas.



UPCOMING GLIS EVENTS (cont.)

by Valentina Vallejo

GLIS Spring Celebration

April 17, 2024 | 4:30–6:00 p.m. EDT

233 AB HUB-Robeson Center

Get ready to mark your calendars for the upcoming GLIS Spring Celebration! Following the success of last year's event, we're expanding the festivities to include all GLIS students this time around.

Join us as we honor our graduates and present awards in recognition of their outstanding achievements. The celebration is not only a platform to applaud our graduates but also an opportunity for GLIS majors to mingle and build connections within our community.

While we're still in the planning stages and details are forthcoming, we wanted to encourage you to save the date. Your participation will be key in making this celebration a resounding success. Stay tuned for more details!



GLIS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

by Lauren Forbes



Kayla Bellotti '26

**GLIS and French and Francophone Studies majors
Korean and Economics minors**

What sparked your interest in pursuing a major in Global and International Studies?

I would say my interest in global studies started in high school, though at the time I wasn't sure I wanted to pursue it as a major. I generally liked to absorb media from a variety of other countries and enjoyed all of my history and language classes.

After exploring communications and criminology as areas of study, I decided that the GLIS program offered a nice combination of the things I was interested in. The variety of specified pathways GLIS offered was also one of the reasons I was drawn toward the major.

What is your pathway and why?

I have only recently declared Global and International Studies as a major, so I have not firmly decided on a pathway yet. As of now, I am mostly considering the culture and identity pathway or the wealth and inequality pathway. I have always had an interest in various languages and cultures

I am majoring in French, and I am also minoring in Korean. I like how the subjects covered under the culture and identity pathway, such as language, help broaden my perspective of the world. I feel as though studying the world through this lens helps me grow on a personal level as well. This also applies to my interest in wealth and inequality. I am minoring in economics, which directly overlaps with this pathway. I have a family member whose previous work in public housing assistance also inspired my interest in pursuing this pathway.

GLIS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT (cont.)

by Lauren Forbes

How do you envision your future career path aligning with your studies in Global and International Studies?

Although I have not figured out what my career aspirations are yet, I would like to pursue a career that lets me experience the world. Ideally, I would love to travel through my career and experience all of the places I have learned about during my time at Penn State. After looking through the variety of graduate school and career pathways on the GLIS website, I am optimistic about the variety of directions one can take in their professional life with a degree in Global and International Studies.

How has GLIS allowed you to develop your global understanding and what are you looking forward to learning more about in the future?

The classes I have taken within the GLIS department so far, although few, have already broadened my awareness of world events at least tenfold. They have taught me how to think from the perspective of both a humanist and a social scientist. I have learned about places, people, and ethnicities I have never heard about before. I am excited about the level of personalization GLIS affords each of its students. Each student can configure their schedule based on their interests and what they would like to learn more about in this world. I feel as though I am receiving a well-rounded education through this program.

PSI CHI'S UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

by Megg Reddy

Psi Chi is the National Honour Society in Psychology, founded in 1929 for the purposes of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship, and advancing the science of psychology. They are hosting an Undergraduate Research Conference on **April 18, 2024**, at the Moore Building. The goal of this conference is to provide a platform for students to present their research on a wide range of subject matter, and it is open to all majors, campuses and types of research across the commonwealth.



Applications to present at the conference have recently opened and are due on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 11:59pm**. The conference can be attended in person from 2:30–5:00 p.m. at the Moore Building Atrium or it can be attended online from 6:30–9:00 p.m. via Zoom, on Thursday, April 18, 2024.

Students can present research from both empirical and conceptual projects. The only requirement for presenting is that students utilize a faculty mentor to help them through the process of creating the poster. There is a \$5 fee for entering the conference, and there may be travel funding available through Psi Chi as well as through the College of Liberal Arts to help students get to and from the conference.

Students have the chance to present their research ideas to academics and students from other universities by attending conferences such as this one. It enables you to look into subjects that pique your interest in the hopes of discovering research areas you can follow in graduate school. In addition, it offers students a less formal platform for presenting their research while still serving as an excellent CV and resume builder.



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
Managing Editor
GLIS and French and
Francophone Studies majors
Culture and Identity pathway
Fourth-Year



Megg Reddy
Content Writer
GLIS major
Culture and Identity pathway
Third-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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