



# GLOBAL LEADERS OF PENN STATE

Global and International Studies  
Monthly Email Newsletter

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## WELCOME

by Abigail Picozzi, Managing Editor

Welcome to the graduation issue! Over the 2023–24 academic year, we've enjoyed sharing stories from the GLIS community. At the end of every school year, we dedicate the last issue to the GLIS graduating class. In this issue, we have congratulations and warm wishes from the GLIS director, faculty, and academic adviser. We also have letters from our graduating newsletter team members Olivia Bratton and Abigail Picozzi, information about the class of 2024, graduates in their own words, and spotlights on the GLIS Student Marshal, Olivia Bratton and the College of the Liberal Arts Student Marshal, Amanda Mohamed.

The GLIS newsletter team congratulates our graduating class on overcoming a difficult start to their college experience and making the most of their time as Penn Staters. To the graduates, we wish you luck and to the rest of the GLIS community, have a great summer! We'll see you in the fall.



**PennState**  
College of the Liberal Arts

# CONGRATULATIONS FROM GLIS DIRECTOR

by Krista Brune



## **Krista Brune**

**Director of the Global and International Studies Program  
Dorothy W. Gilpatrick University Endowed Fellow in the  
Humanities and Associate Professor of Portuguese and  
Spanish**

Congratulations, GLIS graduates! Your undergraduate career has been a unique one, as a global pandemic altered the beginning of your college experience. I admire your perseverance and resiliency as you spent your first year in a mix of Zoom rooms and hybrid classrooms before returning to in-person classes with renewed enthusiasm.

The causes and continued repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic remind us of the critical importance of global and international perspectives to understanding and addressing the complicated issues facing our world. I applaud all of you for embracing these perspectives and for learning about peoples, places, and cultures within a global framework.

As GLIS students, you have begun to carve your own paths and to determine which topics and areas interest you the most. Choosing your pathways opened you to new realms of study and allowed you to gain expertise in diverse areas, from culture and identity, to global conflict, to wealth and inequality. Guided by curiosity and genuine interest in the world, you have taken full advantage of the flexibility of majoring in GLIS. Many of you have combined your program studies with other majors, minors, internships, or study abroad experiences. Whether interning for the U.S. Department of State or with a local politician in Harrisburg, researching in Latin America, or studying language and culture in South Korea, you have delved into the possibilities of a global Your commitment to community—be it through the classroom, campus organizations, local politics, or global exchanges—is commendable. I urge you to remain engaged with your local and global communities as you share the knowledge that you have gained as GLIS students.

During your years at Penn State, you have overcome unexpected challenges and have accomplished a great deal. As you move on to new adventures and face other difficulties, I hope you will draw on the skills, experiences, and relationships that you fostered as GLIS students. You have so much to offer your friends, families, colleagues, employers, and broader communities. I look forward to hearing about the next steps of your journeys. Wishing you all much success and happiness as you embark on your postgraduate lives!

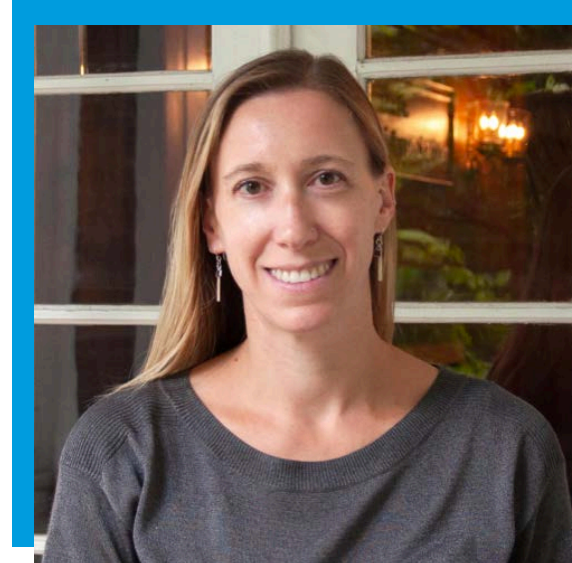
# CONGRATULATIONS FROM GLIS FACULTY

**Cyanne Loyle, Ph.D.**

**Associate Professor of Political Science and  
International Affairs**

Congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone in your academic journey! It has been a pleasure to teach and learn from our GLIS students this year. You are a remarkable group of advocates and scholars and it has been my great fortune to get to know you better. As you leave Penn State, armed with your global and international studies degree, you carry with you a profound understanding of the interconnectedness of our world. This degree isn't just a piece of paper; it's a testament to your dedication to understanding and navigating the complexities of our global community.

In an era where borders blur and cultures converge, your understanding of the world around you equips you with the tools to make a tangible difference. However, you are also entering a world grappling with pressing global challenges—from climate change and pandemics to political instability and socioeconomic inequality. Yet, it is precisely in the face of these challenges that your education becomes even more crucial. Your knowledge, empathy, and commitment to global issues are the keys to addressing these challenges head-on. As you step into the world beyond Penn State, remember that you have learned the skills to make a difference. Congratulations GLIS Class of 2024!



# CONGRATULATIONS FROM GLIS FACULTY



**Yuliya V. Ladygina, Ph.D.**

**Helena Rubinstein University Endowed Fellow in the Humanities and Assistant Professor of Russian and Global Studies**

Congratulations on achieving your bachelor's degrees! This is a tremendous accomplishment, and I commend your perseverance and dedication. I am grateful that I had a chance to work with some of you over the past couple of years—you are such a creative, smart, kind, and, most importantly, inclusive bunch! I look forward to meeting the rest of you as you return to campus in the years to come. With the GLIS degree in hand, I am confident that you have the expertise, knowledge, and compassion to lead us through Russia's gruesome attack on democracy and world peace, and guide us through many other global crises that the world is facing today. Go out, set the world on its ear, and make the GLIS program proud! All my very best!



# CONGRATULATIONS FROM GLIS ADVISER

## **Tom Spencer, Ph.D.** **Academic Adviser**

I think I'm the luckiest academic adviser on campus. Really. I work with some of the most passionate, creative, adventurous, intelligent, and conscientious students on campus. My GLIS advisees are an inspiration. I wanted to write a little bit about some of the achievements of our graduating seniors.

- Kathryn Lathrop who studied abroad in Tanzania and is minoring in both African Studies and Sustainability and Leadership.
- Amanda Mohamed volunteered with WOOOF USA on farms in Alaska and Hawaii, participated in IES Abroad Emerging Economies program in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Santiago, Chile, and conducted research in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- Olivia Bratton studied abroad for a semester in Barcelona, Spain and interned at the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General in the Organized Crime Unit.
- Simone Miller was a recipient of the D.C. Social Justice Fellowship and the Penn State Public Humanities Fellowship, assisted in research College of Agriculture, interned for the International Student Oral History Project at the Penn State Libraries, and participated in the Dutch Social Justice Study Abroad Program to the Netherlands
- Jordan Cheatle studied abroad in Israel to examine the Israel-Palestine conflict, served on the Hillel International Student Cabinet, and served as the StandWithUs Emerson Fellow.



In the future, GLIS students are participating in these exciting opportunities:

- Attending law school
- Starting graduate studies, with an assistantship, at Arcadia University to study International Peace and Conflict
- Interning with First National Bank Corporation in Human Resources
- Participating in a two-year Hillel in the United States assignment to enable young Jewish students to lead through love, passion, and education.

The flexibility of the GLIS major curriculum allows for opportunities to become engaged in locally and globally and prepares you for many exciting future endeavors. Returning (non-graduating) students, I hope you felt inspired reading the achievements shared above. Inspired, but also motivated to enhance your own academic careers. For all GLIS major students, I hope you feel proud for representing such a diverse and strong Penn State major.

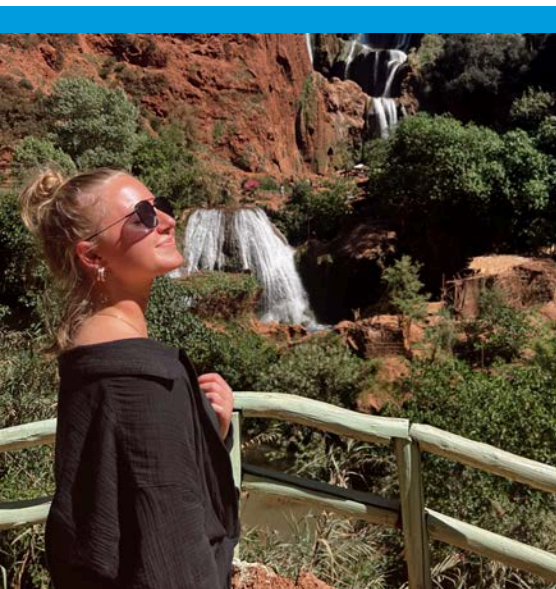
# LETTER TO THE GRADUATING CLASS

by Olivia Bratton

Dear fellow GLIS graduates of 2024,

Congratulations! Our journeys navigating the unique and influential years at Penn State University are coming to an end, and we should feel extremely proud and honored for all that we have learned and accomplished in our time here. As you cross the graduation stage, try to imagine the younger version of yourself, likely nervous as you navigated one of your first times away from home, and compare them to who you are now. We have all grown so much as adults, independent thinkers, collaborators, leaders, and friends. I have no doubt that these improved qualities will enable us to join and better the communities around us, as well as uphold our commitment to a globalized world.

We should be very thankful that we were able to connect through a major as flexible and diverse as GLIS. GLIS allowed us to broaden our perspectives across multiple disciplines while simultaneously guiding us to have a more refined specialization in a distinct pathway, such as global conflict, culture and identity, human rights, wealth and inequality, and health and environment.



Olivia Bratton

With varying focuses between students, our group discussions were extremely insightful and allowed students to not only learn from the outstanding faculty but to also respectfully engage with peers.

Because of our time dedicated to GLIS, we can now all embark on our own directions, equipped with multi-faceted and applicable problem-solving and communication skills. I hope you look back on your university education and feel extremely proud and thankful for your involvement in the GLIS major; I know our community has loved learning from and spending time with all of you. Let your experience with GLIS serve as a reminder that although we live in a vast world of beautiful cultures, we are all still connected in so many ways. I wish you the best of luck!

# LETTER TO THE GRADUATING CLASS

by Abigail Picozzi

Dear GLIS Graduates of 2024,

First and foremost, congratulations! Earning a GLIS degree is a wonderful accomplishment, and I am extraordinarily proud to be able to graduate alongside each of you this May. No matter what your academic path looked like, I hope you take time to reflect on your experiences at Penn State and appreciate the hard work you've put in to get to where you are now: a college graduate!

Throughout our years at Penn State, we have embarked on personal and academic adventures alike; whether that be studying abroad, learning a new language, or expanding our global horizons, the GLIS program has provided each of us with a sound basis to be a contributing member of the global community.

As you continue on your personal, professional, or academic journeys, I hope you remember the lessons you have learned throughout your time at Penn State. With our liberal arts degree, we have gained intensely valuable skills such as the ability to think critically, the drive to find solutions to pertinent global issues, and a connection to cultures and communities around the world. By choosing to major in GLIS, you chose to remain informed about contemporary global matters and you chose to care about the wider world around you. Each and every one of you should be proud to be a Penn Stater, a College of the Liberal Arts graduate, and an informed GLIS student.

Our global education does not end here; the world is out there waiting to continue teaching us more about the lessons we've learned thus far in our academic journeys. I wish each and every one of you great success in your future endeavors. It has been a pleasure to learn alongside you over the years, and I hope to continue doing so.

To the GLIS department, the newsletter team, and Penn State: thank you for the knowledge, drive, and friendship you have gifted me. I leave Penn State an informed and enthusiastic member of the global community, and I can't wait to see what the future holds!



Abigail Picozzi

# ABOUT THE GLIS CLASS OF 2024

by Sommer Mitchell

The Global and International Studies class of 2024 is a diverse group of undergraduates. There are thirty-four students graduating this semester with twenty-one earning a bachelor of arts degree and thirteen earning a bachelor of science degree. There are seven Paterno Fellows, thirteen Schreyer Scholars, and six students who have earned a high enough grade-point average to graduate with distinction. Those include two with a 3.85 or higher grade-point average and cum laude distinction, three with a 3.92 or higher grade-point average and magna cum laude distinction, and one graduating with summa cum laude distinction—Olivia Bratton with a 3.98 grade-point average. Olivia is the GLIS Student Marshal and Amanda Mohamed, the College of the Liberal Arts Student Marshal, received the GLIS Top Academic Graduating Student award. Additionally, Emily Shiels received the GLIS Civic Engagement award and Katie Mussett was awarded the GLIS Thesis Prize. In recognition of her dedication to the GLIS community and hard work over the last two years as the managing editor of this newsletter, Abigail Picozzi received the Spirit of GLIS award. Many graduates were double majors with one or more minors while also studying abroad, completing internships, and participating in undergraduate research.



Sommer Mitchell  
Director of Undergraduate  
Studies for GLIS and  
Assistant Teaching Professor of  
Global and International Studies

Congratulations, GLIS graduates! The time you have spent earning your degree is an indicator of your persistence and dedication. The road has not been easy but your ability to move forward despite the odds proves you can embrace and adapt to a changing environment; a skill that will serve you well in the years to come. The experiences you have gained, the lessons you have learned, and the opportunities you have taken and lost during your time at Penn State have prepared you for what's next. There are many pathways available to you with no one right way forward. This reality is both exciting and scary. Whatever path you choose, the GLIS program wishes you the best of luck! Never forget your years spent as Penn Staters and always look forward to what comes next.



# GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Erasmo Abella

Global and International Studies major  
History and Anthropology minors

“I learned a lot of topics and enjoyed the classes I was in throughout my college career. GLIS helped me learn about the different perspectives and beliefs of people with different backgrounds. It helped me broaden my world views and appreciate and enjoy the differences this world has to offer, but also celebrate the common humanity that binds us together. My time with GLIS was really influential to my future career prospects and I'm glad I majored in here. I believe it prepared me well towards my goal of becoming a Foreign Service Officer. It helped me understand global issues, navigate cultural nuances, and gain diplomacy skills which are crucial for a career in the State Department.”

Global and International Studies and International Politics majors  
Master's of International Affairs

“During my time and experience with GLIS, I have been able to experience global issues, many ways to governed, and countless cultural dynamics. Through my coursework and class discussions, I gained a comprehensive understanding of how interconnected our world is, while also honoring critical thinking and analytical skills. This experience and major have broadened my global perspective and equipped me with the knowledge and tools to engage in the world of international studies.”



Imanol Bazan



Briana Bottorf

Global and International Studies major  
Political Science minor  
Smeal College Business Fundamentals certificate

“Majoring in GLIS was a great experience. Coming from a small town, GLIS allowed me to learn about and experience the entire world, something I never got to do throughout my life prior. Through GLIS I have become more informed and found my primary interests and passions.”

# GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS

## Global and International Studies and Political Science majors



Olivia Bratton

“My time with the Global and International Studies Major has been nothing less than exceptional. The major has allowed me to expand my global perspective, immerse myself in a unique culture through a study abroad experience in Spain, and find my passion for a career in international relations. Through my focus on the global conflict pathway, I enjoyed the flexibility of engaging in courses across various fields of study and departments. Also, I am extremely grateful for my role as a content writer on the GLIS newsletter, as working with Dr. Mitchell and the staff has been a highlight of my experience in GLIS. Overall, I am excited to apply the knowledge, opportunities, and skills I have gained from GLIS in my future endeavors.”

## Global and International Studies and International Politics majors

“My Global and International Studies major has been instrumental in shaping my global perspective as a child of intercultural parents. Growing up between Colombia and Maryland provided me with a rich multicultural background, complemented by fluency in Spanish and ongoing efforts to learn Italian and Arabic. Through GLIS, I've deepened my understanding of global interconnectedness, fostering the development of my global perspective. This major has not only enhanced my academic journey but also empowered me to navigate and thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.”



Maria Castillo



Jamie Chen

## Global and International Studies major Chinese and Business minors

“My time with GLIS has provided me with a deeper knowledge and perspectives of the world and its affairs. I will deeply cherish the invaluable experiences and friends I have made along the way.”

# GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Lauren Collis

Global and International Studies major  
Arabic, Middle Eastern Studies, and Military Studies minors

“I came to Penn State in 2020 knowing that the Global and International Studies program was a perfect fit for me. The different focus areas provided me with a great opportunity to learn more about what interested me, which is why I chose to pursue the culture and identity pathway. Throughout my four years, I have greatly enjoyed the various cultural courses, even earning an Arabic minor along the way! My journey with GLIS has been very rewarding, and I can truly say that it has expanded my worldview and given me the ability to think on a broader scale.”

Global and International Studies major  
Sustainability Leadership and Economics minor

“The Health and Environment pathway in the GLIS major helped me immensely in preparing for a career in environmental law and policy. The interdisciplinary program supported my interests in international environmental policy and global issues, allowing me to make the most of my time in classes. I look forward to using the skills and knowledge I obtained to work towards a brighter future. ”



Shivpreet Dhillon



Conor Kelley

Global and International Studies and Community, Environment, and Development majors

“GLIS taught me what it meant to think outside the box. To go and search for those other experiences and perspective that are not easily found. I also learned immensely about what it means to find fulfillment in a global world and finding your place in it.”

# GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Kathryn Lathrop

Global and International Studies major  
Sustainability Leadership and African Studies minors

“GLIS gave me the ability to skillfully engage with intersections at the international level that I am truly passionate about. The influence of GLIS led me to study abroad in Tanzania, one of the most impactful experiences within my time at Penn State. I'm truly grateful for the knowledge and support the I received as a student in the GLIS department.”

Global and International Studies major

“Overall, my experience academically has been a great learning and positive time and I've met some really interesting people. Thankful to have met some great professors that I know I can reach out to in the future.”



Marta McCormick

Global and International Studies major  
History minor  
Holocaust and Genocide Studies certificate



Simone Miller

“As a GLIS student, I was able have a multitude of opportunities, such as travel aboard to countries such as the Netherlands for the Dutch Social Justice program, intern for the International Student Oral History Project at Penn State Libraries, as well as take a broad range of classes that allowed me to explore all my interest. Due to this experience, I was able to participate in a diverse set of fellowships, internships, and have transferable skills in most industries.”



# GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Amanda Mohamed

Global and International Studies, Labor and Human Resources, and Spanish majors  
Civic and Community Engagement minor

“Studying Global and International Studies has provided me with the in-classroom knowledge that is necessary to have a broader perspective of the world. Throughout my time in the major, I have utilized the information I learned in class while conducting research in San Juan, Puerto Rico and studying abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Santiago, Chile.”

Global and International Studies major  
Sustainability Leadership, Environmental Inquiry, and Spanish minors

“GLIS has allowed me to meet students and professors who have different interests, but who seek to achieve the same goal of reaching a mutual understanding across different cultures that we need to keep moving forward to make change happen. It has been wonderful meeting so many passionate peers, and I am confident that our generation will make a difference.”



Lydia Neuhauser



Lily Pershica

Global and International Studies and Spanish majors  
Business In the Liberal Arts minor

“Because of GLIS I had endless opportunities to go abroad and explore new places and cultures. I was able to learn about the world preparing me for a future of global adventures.”

# GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Abigail Picozzi

Global and International Studies and French and French and Francophone Studies majors

"I am so grateful for my experience as a GLIS major and the opportunities I've been afforded through this program, especially the opportunity to oversee this newsletter. The professors and peers I've had the pleasure of working with throughout these four years have all impacted me so positively and have allowed me to truly grow as a student and member of the Penn State community. I'm very excited to see what the world holds for me post-grad, thank you so much to the GLIS program for preparing me to be an active, educated member of the international community."

Global and International Studies and Political Science majors

"As a GLIS major at Penn State, I was able to explore many global issues, some of which are of the utmost importance for our future such as the ongoing global fight against climate change. Through my classes, I was able to gain an in depth understanding of how states interact with one another and how international organizations collaborate with states on many different issues. Finally, being a GLIS major helped me embark on my study abroad journey based in Spain where I was able to further my studies engulfed in a culture different than our own. I'll always be grateful for my GLIS professors and advisors, and I thank them for guiding me through my four years here at Penn State. "



Ethan Renz



Brendan Rowe

Global and International Studies and Criminology majors

"I joined the GLIS major as a Sophomore and could not be happier with my experience. I look forward to utilizing what I learned to help me in my future military career and other endeavors."

# GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Allison Savio

Global and International Studies and Spanish majors  
French and Francophone Studies and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages minors

“Being a GLIS student has been a great avenue for me to explore more deeply the cultures and histories of people all over the world. I chose the Culture and Identity pathway and through that was able to learn more about the experiences of people in every part of the world. It was a valuable opportunity for me and helped position me to work with people everywhere when I graduate at the end of this semester!”

Global and International Studies and Korean majors  
Military Studies minor

“I did not initially enroll as a GLIS Major; however, I am so glad that I switched to it my freshman year because of the numerous opportunities I was able to be a part of. In conjunction with my Korean major, I have been able to learn a completely new language as well as travel around the world learning about the Korean culture and the cultures and histories of many other East Asian Nations through the Culture and Identity Pathway. Most recently, I was able to be a part of a class trip to Lisbon, Portugal to learn and understand more in-depth what we had been learning in class and see how it impacts modern day Portugal and the Portuguese speaking world!”



Christine Shasa



Emily Shiels

Global and International Studies and Geography majors  
Spanish minor

“My time in GLIS helped me discover my passion for international affairs and more specifically, foreign policy. I was able to craft my perfect degree, getting credit for embedded courses to Curacao, Thailand, and Portugal, and taking classes in various departments. I'm excited to use experiences and knowledge learned in the GLIS program in graduate school this fall. I will be in Washington D.C. for my master's degree in International Affairs, and I can't thank GLIS enough for giving me the space and opportunity develop that interest.”

# GRADUATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Global and International Studies and Political Science majors  
Master's of International Affairs



Prachi Soni

“As a GLIS major, I immersed myself in a rich tapestry of interdisciplinary coursework and engaged in meaningful interactions with international students and faculty. This transformative experience greatly expanded my understanding of diverse world cultures, complex global issues, and the intricacies of international relations. The GLIS program equipped me with invaluable cross-cultural communication and problem-solving skills that have proven essential in both my professional and personal life. Moreover, the rigorous coursework and practical skills I acquired through the GLIS program made me a well-prepared and competitive candidate for the IUG program in pursuit of a master’s degree in international affairs. Ultimately, GLIS played a pivotal role in shaping my worldview, fostering my ability to navigate an increasingly interconnected world, and empowering me to make meaningful contributions to a global scale.”

Global and International Studies and Asian Studies majors  
Korean Language minor

“As a GLIS major, I've been able to immerse myself in South Korean culture through two enriching study abroad experiences. These adventures developed my global awareness, empowering me to contribute actively as a peer adviser at Penn State's Education Abroad department, where I've passionately guided others in exploring the world beyond borders through studying abroad. The diverse global studies courses offered during my time at Penn State have equipped me with knowledge about a vast array of global issues, fueling my advocacy for social justice and equality worldwide.”



Cassell Spencer



Morgan Urlaub

Global and International Studies and Chinese majors

“Through the GLIS major, I have been able to explore so many different courses and themes in various areas of international studies. I have made some great friends and had the opportunity to learn from some great professors. I look forward to seeing where the GLIS major will take me.”

## Graduates Not Pictured

Jordynn Cheatle  
John Craig

Sabrina Hevia-Lenkiewicz  
Jessica Higgins

Erin Palmer  
Reigan Payne

Kirk Popovich  
Milo Rosenberg

Lily Terpinas  
Alaine Tobolewski



# GLIS CLASS OF 2024 STUDENT MARSHAL

by Lauren Forbes



## **Olivia Bratton '24 GLIS Student Marshal Global and International Studies and Political Science Majors**

When asked why she chose GLIS, class of 2024 Student Marshal Olivia said she chose the GLIS major because it is an extremely unique, diverse, and flexible major where you can apply new skills and expand your knowledge across different fields. For example, Liv was able to take history, political science, economics, and communications classes that all tied together to contribute to her specific pathway, global conflict.

One of Liv's favorite GLIS memories was her time as a member of the GLIS Newsletter staff. "It has allowed me to practice being creative, expand my writing skills, and remain involved and informed about the GLIS community and opportunities. I feel fortunate to have worked alongside Dr. Mitchell and the amazing staff."

Apart from the GLIS Newsletter, Liv spent the majority of her time at Penn State contributing to THON as the THON chair and dancer for her sorority, Gamma Phi Beta. She was able to lead fundraising efforts, oversee contact with alumni, and establish specialized committees for our members' involvement. Additionally, she was a member of the Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity, Empower Women in Law, a fitness instructor at F45, and a volunteer for the St. Paul's United Methodist Church Coffeehouse!

When asked what her favorite Penn State memory is, Liv said, "My favorite Penn State memories came during my experience studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain. Not only was the city itself beautiful and interesting, but I was also able to travel to a total of nine different countries and develop my global perspective."

Looking forward, Liv is planning to attend law school next fall, with a special interest in international and comparative law. Liv's advice for other GLIS students: "I would advise them to stay informed and take advantage of all of the opportunities and services that the GLIS major provides. GLIS has many intriguing speakers, panels, career service opportunities, and related clubs and events that are extremely beneficial to students. I would also recommend for every student to study abroad if they can!"

# CLASS OF 2024 COLLEGE OF THE LIBERAL ARTS STUDENT MARSHAL

by Megg Reddy

**Amanda Mohamed 24'**  
**Liberal Arts College Marshal**  
**Hometown: State College, Pennsylvania**

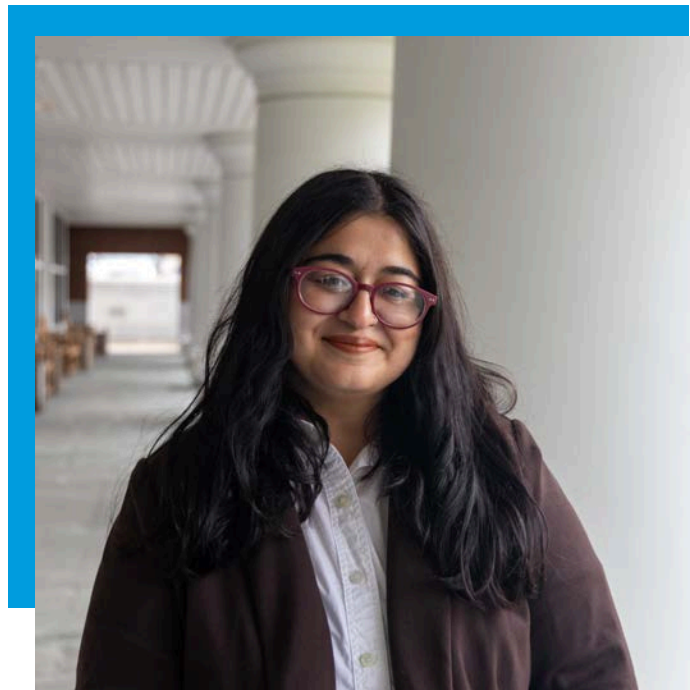
When asked why GLIS, Amanda told us about her experience during a gap year in Belgium. While there, she enjoyed learning about new cultures and languages and traveling. When she came to Penn State, she wanted to pursue a major that combined those experiences, and GLIS was the perfect fit.

Amanda has had several fond memories throughout her time at Penn State, but one of her favourite memories is when she studied abroad in Argentina and Chile. She lived with host families abroad and cherished the time she spent with them.

Along with GLIS, Amanda also majored in Labor and Human Resources and Spanish and minored in Civic and Community Engagement. In addition to her education, she took every opportunity to get involved on campus. She was the co-director of Students Teaching Students, a member of the Presidential Leadership Academy, and an intern for them. Amanda was also a Lion Ambassador in the past.

After graduation, Amanda will work as a summer human resources intern at First National Bank in Pittsburgh. Following that, she will attend the University of Maryland to get her master's degree in higher education and student affairs. As a first-generation student herself, she is passionate about helping other first-generation or underrepresented students. She hopes to pursue this passion in her career and work at a university to help students.

Amanda would like to share her advice with other GLIS students: Pick a pathway you are passionate about and build the classes around your interests. Another piece of advice would be to get out of the classroom, take advantage of the study abroad program available at Penn State, and use every opportunity to volunteer. This would help you learn more about the world and its different cultures.

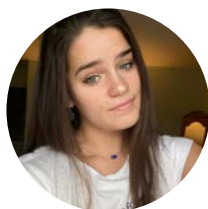




**Olivia Bratton**  
Content Writer  
GLIS and Political Science majors  
Global Conflict pathway  
Fourth-Year



**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

***Global Leaders of Penn State* is looking for content!**  
If you are interested in submitting a story, please email us at [glis@psu.edu](mailto:glis@psu.edu).



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