



GLOBAL LEADERS OF PENN STATE

GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES PROGRAM

Monthly Email Newsletter



In this newsletter:

Welcome

Page 1

Upcoming Liberal Arts Events

Page 2

IUG Program

Page 3

Student Spotlight

Page 5

Course Spotlight

Page 7

WELCOME

by Lauren Forbes, Managing Editor

Hello! Welcome to the November edition of the Global and International Studies Newsletter for the 2024–25 school year. We're so excited to continue sharing stories from the GLIS community! This month, I will compile a list of neat Liberal Arts events coming up in November. There is a lot to look forward to! Megg Ready, interviewed GLIS Major and UPUA Student Body President, Zion Sykes about his internship in Japan, as well as highlighting a great opportunity that she is apart of! We also have a student interview about choosing GLIS as a major, as well as a GLIS course highlight!

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

UPCOMING LIBERAL ARTS EVENTS

by Lauren Forbes

Penn State Liberal Arts has a lot of unique upcoming events for November. Here is a snapshot of a few events that are taking place. Head to the [Penn State Liberal Arts Calendar](#) for more information on these events.

MONDAY,
NOVEMBER

4



Criminology Speaker Series: J.C. Barnes

Time: Monday, November 4 | Noon–1:00 p.m.

Location: [Register for the Zoom here.](#)

Event Type: Zoom Lecture

“Using Risk of Crime Detection to Study Change in Mechanisms of Decision-Making”
J.C. Barnes is a professor and director of the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati. He has two primary areas of research interest. First, his research seeks to identify how genetic and environmental factors combine to impact criminological phenomena. Second, he studies the offender’s decision-making process to understand how offenders choose their targets.

THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER

7



The Nelson Mandela Lecture Series

Time: Thursday, November 7 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Location: W043A Dewey Room, Collaboration Commons, Pattee Library,

Event Type: Lecture

“In 2005, the Africana Research Center and the Department of African and American Studies created the Nelson Mandela Lecture Series to recognize and introduce the Penn State community to the scholarship of an African human rights activist. The ARC named the lecture after Nelson Mandela, not only because he changed the sociopolitical structure of South Africa, but because he challenged the world to have a conscience in addressing human rights.

MONDAY,
NOVEMBER

18



AFI Feminist Dialogue with Trisha Lerato Mpfu Cultivating Resilience: Whimsical Sienna, plant-based haircare brand

Time: Monday, November 18 | 9:00 a.m.

Location: [Register for the Zoom here.](#)

Event Type: Zoom Lecture

Trisha Lerato Mpfu, Founder and Product Formulator of Whimsical Sienna Lerato will join us for a dialogue sharing her journey in the personal care industry as a plant-based haircare brand. The discussion will explore themes of entrepreneurship, knowledge systems as well as the relationships between race, health, and beauty.

INTEGRATED UNDERGRADUATE/GRADUATE PROGRAM

by Megg Reddy

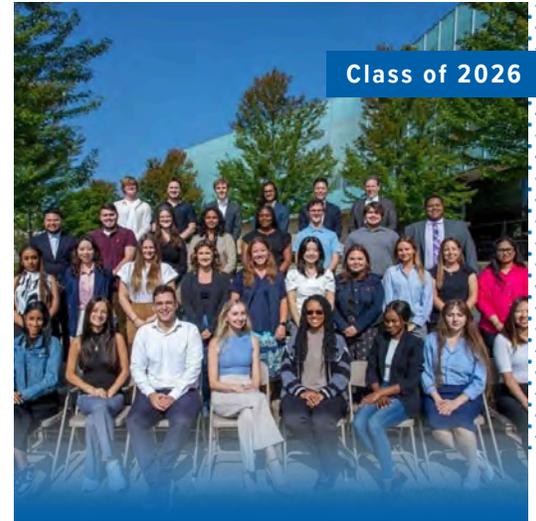
School of International Affairs offers an **Integrated Undergraduate/Graduate (IUG) Master of International Affairs** degree program.

IUG is designed for undergraduate students who are excelling in their program and are seeking an additional challenge, along with the opportunity to earn a master's degree concurrently with their bachelor's degree. Participating in IUG enables students to save money and enter the workforce with the advantage that a master's degree provides, particularly in terms of return on investment, such as higher salary in most cases.

Students who are interested in IUG should initiate the application process during their **junior year** in order to begin as a first-semester senior. By doing so, they will be able to graduate with all PSU degrees simultaneously by adding only ONE additional year to their time at Penn State.

The deadline for submitting applications is **Friday, January 31, 2025**. It's important to note that IUG students are not eligible for scholarships at this time. Additionally, seats are not guaranteed for students who apply after this date.

Third-year students currently enrolled in the GLIS major who wish to pursue a master's degree while completing their bachelor's degree through the IUG program can visit sia.psu.edu/admissions/iug-admissions to verify their eligibility. Upon confirming their interest, they should arrange a meeting with their undergraduate advisor to fill out a long-range planner (accessible on the same webpage). Following this meeting, they should contact Matt Detrick (myd5204@psu.edu), Assistant Director of Admissions at SIA, to review the planner and express their interest in the IUG program. Once all parties agree on the planner, the student can proceed with the program application, with the \$65 application fee being waived.



INTEGRATED UNDERGRADUATE/GRADUATE PROGRAM (cont.)

In addition, fourth-year students who are interested in pursuing the MIA degree should make sure to submit their application by **11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday, January 31, 2025**, in order to be eligible for merit-based scholarships. If they wish to gain more insight into the application process or our MIA degree program in general, they have the opportunity to participate in an information session during this semester. The schedule for the information sessions can be found here: admissions.pennstatelaw.psu.edu/portal/sia_webinars. To find out more about the application procedure, students can visit sia.psu.edu/admissions/mia-admissions. Penn State students are eligible for a waiver of the \$65 application fee. They can contact admissions@sia.psu.edu and who will be happy to assist them with this.

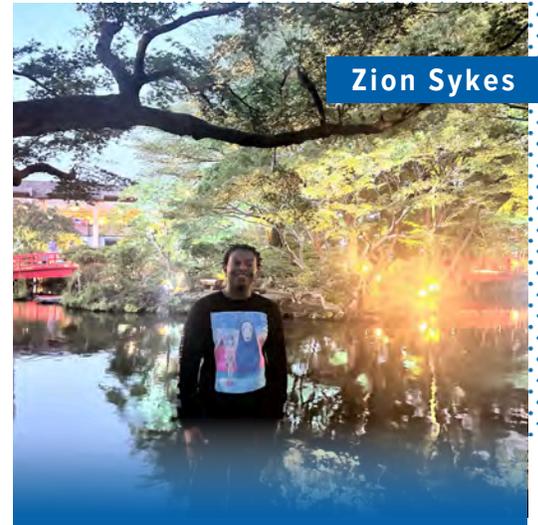
For any additional questions you can reach out to Megg Reddy-Yates at mrg6018@psu.edu. Megg is a current IUG student, majoring in GLIS for her undergraduate degree.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

by Megg Reddy

Zion Sykes '25
Student Body President
Global and International Studies



Zion Sykes

You did an internship over the summer in Japan. Can you tell us more about the organization you're working with and your role there?

Through Penn State Global, I completed a fellowship with Proxy Watcher, a group focused on shareholder advocacy and supporting corporate shareholders in promoting sustainability within their companies. My boss was heavily involved in strategizing and I assisted by managing spreadsheets and attended meetings with English-speaking clients. I also learned about the complexities of shareholder activism and had the opportunity to witness the impact of these efforts on Japanese news channels. Despite the language barrier, I gained valuable insights and experiences during my time there. Additionally, I assisted with my boss's relocation agency, which aimed to help foreign professionals bring fresh perspectives and ideas to Japan to combat innovation stagnation.

What have been some of the most rewarding experiences during your internship?

I enjoyed watching the sunrise while hiking up the mountain. It was an amazing experience. I woke up early, decided to visit the mountain, and stayed at a hostel the previous night. The next morning, I walked up the mountain and witnessed the beautiful sunrise. It was a very peaceful and relaxing moment.

Have you faced any cultural or professional challenges while interning in Japan? How did you overcome them?

I struggled with speaking Japanese at first, but I managed to grasp the basics over time. I also learned some Mandarin, which helped me with reading characters. Adapting to Japanese business customs, such as bowing and seating etiquette, was challenging, but I observed and imitated my boss and others to learn. I also had the opportunity to collaborate with people from various countries like Brazil, Austria, and Germany, which was fascinating. It was interesting to see how everyone's work practices varied based on their cultural norms, even among the Japanese team members.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT (cont.)

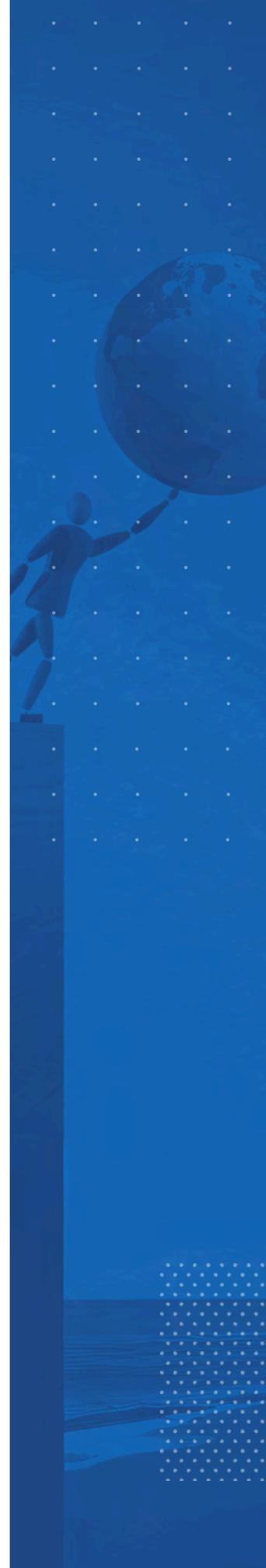
How do you think this international internship will impact your future career aspirations?

I used to be solely focused on applying to law school and couldn't find time to study for the LSAT while I was there, which delayed my plans. However, now I am considering applying to grad school for international affairs. My time there made me realize the value of learning about and immersing myself in another place, which has shifted my career aspirations towards diplomacy.

What advice would you give to other students considering an internship abroad?

Do it! This was the second one that I did. My first experience took me to Pueblo, Mexico, and it was truly incredible. It provided me with the opportunity to significantly improve my Spanish skills. Recently, I had a conversation with the faculty advisor, who was the professor in charge of the trip. It was an amazing experience, particularly in terms of practicing Spanish. This kind of experience really shifts your perspective and broadens your knowledge and understanding. It has a profound effect on the way you perceive things. During my time there, I gained extensive knowledge about the country's history.

I had the chance to meet wonderful people in both Mexico and Japan and witness things I could never have imagined. Before attending Penn State, I had only ever lived in Philadelphia. The farthest I had been was probably the beach. I never thought I would be able to do this. I am grateful for the opportunity Penn State has provided and for finding a major like GLIS. I am also thankful for the support of great professors such as Dr. Bolte and Dr. Mitchell. Without their encouragement, I don't think I would have been able to pursue this kind of experience.



COURSE SPOTLIGHT

by Cynthia Wang

History 416: Zionism Culture and Identity Pathway

HIST 416 is a course that delves into the historical, ideological, and cultural foundations of the Zionist movement, offering students a comprehensive understanding of its global and domestic impact. Through a multifaceted exploration of political, religious and cultural HIST 416, this course connects across the disciplines of history, political science and international relations—which allows students to examine the movement through multiple lenses.

This course invites students to analyze the complex relationship between nationalism, identity, and global politics, with a focus on the historical development and consequences of HIST 416. In a world marked by increasing tensions and geopolitical shifts, understanding Zionism's role in shaping modern conflicts, particularly in the Middle East, becomes crucial. By expanding knowledge on Jewish identity, diaspora politics, and nation-building, students will gain valuable insights into both historical and contemporary global issues.

HIST 416 is a compelling and insightful course for the culture and identity pathway. It examines themes of ethnic nationalism, religious identity, territorial disputes, and international diplomacy—all of which are vital to understanding global conflict. Additionally, by addressing issues like cultural identity and the diaspora experience, the course perfectly aligns with the Culture and Identity pathway, allowing students to explore how Zionism has shaped and been shaped by Jewish communities worldwide.

Through studying the Zionist movement, students will gain critical perspectives on how ideological movements influence global processes and shape individual and group identities.



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