MIAMI UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
Department of Global and Intercultural Studies

Global and Intercultural Studies Department Newsletter

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Events

End-of-Year Student Recognition and Celebration

Thursday, April 23 5:30 pm | MacMillan 212

Students, faculty and staff from GIC gather for our annual recognition of graduating seniors, award and scholarship winners, faculty distinctions, and to reflect on our year of events and accomplishments.

Food will be served!

Lecture on Stephen Colbert and Catholicism



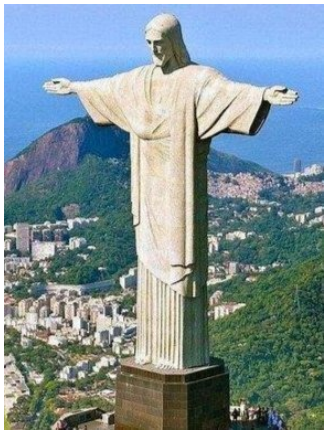
Stephanie Brehm, "Catholic Truthiness: Stephen Colbert and Religion in America" | Wednesday, April 29 5pm | Shideler 053

Interested in Stephen Colbert and how his comedy reflects issues in American religion and public life? Come hear Stephanie Brehm, Director of Graduate Education at Johns Hopkins University, speak on "Catholic Truthiness: Stephen Colbert and Religion in America"

There is also a lunch opportunity that day. Reach out to Liz Wilson if interested in lunch.

Student Opportunities

J-Term 2027: Study in Brazil



Program Info

January 3-21, 2027 | Rio de Janeiro and Salvador de Bahia, Brazil

We'll explore this dynamic economy in its historical and cultural context, and we'll have extensive interactions with local students and families, faculty members, and entrepreneurs. Our locations in Rio and Bahia, and day trips from them, will expose us to important aspects of Brazil's diverse environments and socioeconomic structures. Cultural activities include a samba school, capoeira and percussion workshops, participating in local festivals, and iconic tourist sites like Christ the Redeemer, Sugar Loaf, Pelourinho, and Ipanema and Copacabana beaches. We'll spend 14 nights in Bahia and 4 nights in Rio.

3 credits: ECO 320 OR ITS 390 OR LAS 390. The course is cross-listed in ECO, ITS, and LAS; you can choose which to take.

Scholarships are available!

For more information, contact Juan Carlos Albarrán.

Student News

Student Profiles: Chi Truong, Mari Angelopoulos and Meenal Khurana



Chi Truong (ITS '26) was awarded the 2026 President's Distinguished Service Award, a selective distinction which honors graduating seniors whose sustained commitment to service, leadership, and positive impact reflects the highest ideals of community engagement at Miami University. In addition, she received the Senior Service Leadership Award.

She was also invited to be a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honors society.

Chi was also named as the undergraduate recipient of the Ohio International Consortium's Outstanding International Student Award in recognition of both her academic achievements and contributions to campus and local community.



Mari Angelopoulos (ITS, DAT '26) will be presenting her research at the Undergraduate Research forum on Friday, April 24. Her paper is titled: "Downbeats and Dependencies: Contextualizing Jazz in US-Japan Relations."

Mari is a recipient of the Senior Service Leadership Award in the category of "Service to the Intellectual Community," awarded for leadership in an intellectual organization on campus, an academic honorary, or initiating important academic projects as part of classroom work or research.

Mari got accepted to the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she will be headed in the fall.



Meenal Khurana (ITS, ENG, SJS '26) was nominated for the President's Distinguished Service Award, an honor it itself. She was awarded the Senior Service Leadership Award, and recognized in the categories of "Service to Student Life" and "Service as a University Employee."

Provost's Instructor Honor Roll



Do you have one or more instructors this semester who are positively impacting your learning? The Office of the Provost invites you to share how your instructors' teaching is supporting your learning and development by submitting comments to the **Instructor Honor Roll**. The Honor Roll lets your instructors know the valuable difference they're making in your lives.

Thank you in advance for contributing to the Instructor Honor Roll and celebrating your professors!

Model Arab League in D.C.



The Model Arab League sent 14 students to Washington D.C. to participate in the National University Model Arab League Conference. The team, representing the Government of National Unity of Libya, won three individual awards: **Majesta Johnson** (Outstanding Delegation in the Political Affairs Council); **Joriana Gibbens-Egolf** and **Jade Schram** (Distinguished Delegation at the Summit of Arab Heads of State); and **Austin Fisher** and **Eliza Sullivan**

(Outstanding Delegation in the Special Council on Arab Culture and Heritage). The team was also named an Overall Superior Delegation.

AMS Class Featured in MOON Co-op Newsletter



The AMS 207 class "America: Global & Intercultural Perspectives," taught by **Oana Godeanu-Kenworthy**, enjoyed a feature in Oxford's local MOON Co-op newsletter. Every semester, this class visits the member-owned grocery and deli, and learns about local foodways, organic farming, and the impact of these on local communities, cultures, and consumer choices. They also get introduced to some pretty delicious ingredients sourced right in Oxford's back yard.

Faculty News

Godeanu-Kenworthy Recognized by Honors College



Oana Godeanu-Kenworthy was awarded the Carolyn Haynes Honors College Faculty of the Year Award for the 2025-2026 year. She teaches American Studies courses for Honors cohorts. Congratulations on the distinction!

Jonnalagadda Publishes on Urban Lakes in India



Indivar Jonnalagadda co-published an article titled "How India's Urban Lake Policies Are Getting It Wrong," in *The India Forum: A Journal-Magazine on Contemporary Issues*. In it, they describe the impact of development on Hyderabad's urban lakes, and suggest new directions to imagine and plan future projects that preserve and sustain the valuable resources.

Read the article here

Albarrán Presents Research in Puebla, Mexico



This month, **Elena Jackson Albarrán** traveled to Mexico City to give a lecture to Latin Americans enrolled in the Centro de Enseñanza Para Extranjeros (Learning Center for Foreigners) program of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, and then on to Puebla to present her current work on Latin American reception of Uncle Sam imagery in rhetoric at the Rocky Mountain Council of Latin American Studies.

GIC Pet of the Month



For our graduating seniors, we have senior pup Kaci! She has a bed in every room in her home with **Kenna Neitch**, but her favorite spot is rolling (or snoring) in some spring flowers out in the sun.

At-a-Glance: Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

- **April 23** End of Year Celebration
- **April 29** Stephanie Brehm Lecture

Submit newsletter content to Elena Jackson Albarrán at albarrej@miamioh.edu

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