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

Global and Intercultural Studies Department Newsletter

vol. 3, no. 5
May 11, 2026



Message from the Chair



Sande Garner, GIC Chair

Dear Students and Colleagues,

This year seems to have flown by! There have been so many accomplishments that I cannot even acknowledge all of them in this short reflection. Faculty have researched, published, given workshops, not to mention the great care, experiences, and mentorship they extend to our students in and out of the classroom.

Our students also have many accomplishments to be proud of including winning national awards at the National competition for the Model Arab League, presenting at the Peace and Justice conference in New Orleans, presenting at the Midwest Political Science Association conference as well as winning prestigious awards.

One of the projects we began at the end of spring is to brainstorm what a student advisory committee could do to help make Global and Intercultural Studies more visible across campus and beyond. I look forward to what this group will accomplish as we move forward.

I want to thank everyone for the energy that they bring every day! I wish everyone a delightful summer. Take advantage of this time to replenish your body, mind, and spirit. Take pictures of your travels and experiences so we can publish them in this newsletter next year.

Have a great summer!





Images from the GIC End-of-Year Celebration

Graduating Seniors: Please fill out the GIC Exit Survey!

Exit Survey

Student News

Introducing the GIC Student Advisory Board



The GIC Student Advisory Board is made up of students with majors or minors in a departmental program. They meet with the Chair to advise and consult about the department's student-facing programs, opportunities, outreach, communication, and visibility on campus.

Pictured (counter-clockwise): Caitlin Buzzard, Maji Johnson, Starr Stimson, Emily Watts, Sande Garner, McHael Jones, Liam Bardon

Loyola University Peace Conference in New Orleans



Jade Schram (ITS/ Russian East. Eur. Lang '28), **Grace Farrell** (ITS/HST '28), **Isa Obradovich** (ART '26), **Anastasija Mladenovska** (POL '26), and **Julie Rode** (POL/ECO '27), presented papers from **Kate Dannies'** class ITS/WGS/HST Gender & Conflict in the Middle East, at Loyola University in New Orleans Peace Conference in April.

Students Present at Midwest Political Science Association



Naaborle Sackeyfio brought two students to the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, April 24-26. **Joriana Gibbens-Egolf** (ITS/SPN/ORG '28) presented her policy paper from her ITS 202 class in Spring 2025, and **Lyla Nieter** (ITS/ECO '28), who presented on the challenges of the two-party political system.

Model Arab League Travels to Indiana, D.C.



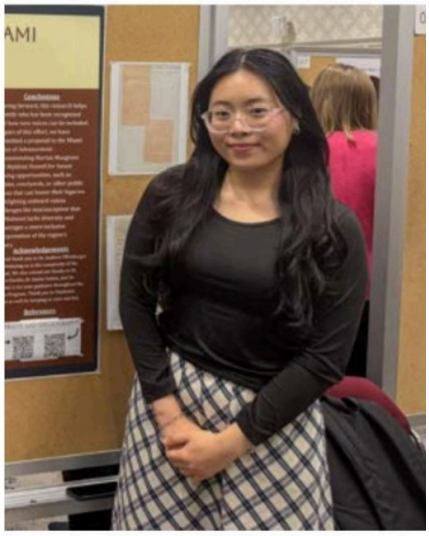
Miami University's Model Arab League team sent fourteen students to Bloomington, Indiana, from February 19-21, to participate in the Ohio Valley Model Arab League conference, earning several awards. They went to Washington D.C. for the Nationals in April.

Undergraduate Summer Scholar Awardee



Grace Farrell (ITS/HST '28) was awarded an Undergraduate Summer Scholar award for her project "The Evolution of Egyptology: From Colonialism to Nationalism." She will work under the faculty mentorship of **Kate Dannies**. Congratulations, Grace!

The Miami Student Features ITS Graduating Student



Chi Truong (ITS '26) was featured in the latest issue of *The Miami Student:* "'Dare to Take Up Space': Chi Truong reflects on finding her place at Miami." In it, she reflects on some of her internationalizing experiences at Miami, including her research as a Geoffrion Family Fellow studying Vietnamese communities in the Midwest: "[T]raveling and seeing Vietnamese communities across the region reassured her 'my people are here,' strengthening her own sense of place."

Pick up a paper copy of *The Miami Student* today!

Summer Research in Japan



Caitlin Buzzard (ITS/ East Asian Languages/ Linguistics '28) will be conducting research in Japan this summer as part of an Honors Senior Project. She says, "I will be researching the gift giving culture in Shikoku, Japan while walking the 800 mile Shikoku Pilgrimage. I will visit 108 temples and conduct interviews with locals fully in Japanese. My goal is to find out if the Osettai (gift-giving) practice is more cultural or religious."

Graduate School Plans



Chelsea Campbell (ITS '26) will be attending George Washington University in the fall to start her M.A. in International Affairs.



Natalie Murnen (Audiology, Speech and Language Pathology '26) presented her capstone research from WGS 401 at this year's QT-Con. Her talk was titled "Finding Your Voice: The Outcomes of SLP-Led Gender-Affirming Voice Therapy." This soon-to-be WGS alum is about to start a new adventure at Metropolitan State University of Denver as she pursues her MS in Speech Language Pathology and a career in gender-affirming voice therapy.



Sabrina Costello (ITS/PHL '26) will be attending Georgetown in the fall to study an M.A. in Refugee and Migrations Studies.

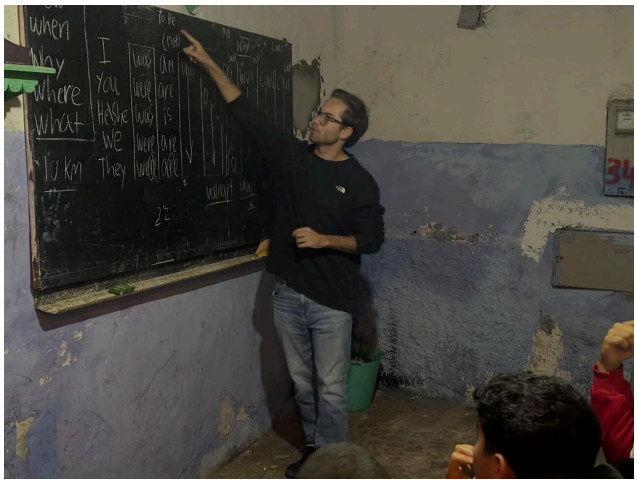


Laura Griffiths (ITS '26) will be attending Duke University for an M.A. in Environmental Science.

Fulbright News from ITS Grad in Morocco



Recent graduate **Cyle Ginsburg** (ITS/ECO '25) reported from his Fulbright fellowship in Morocco, where he is teaching English. He is pictured (L) at Madrasa Ben Youssef, a famous Quranic school in Marrakech, and (below) teaching free, open evening classes in the Medina of Essaouira.



In the Classroom

Myaamia Games

In the AMS/HST 259, Intro to the Miami Tribe course, co-taught by Sande Garner, students play traditional games and learn Myaamia crafts in a session led by staff from the Myaamia Center. It is a fun and educational way for them to close out the semester.






From top left (counter-clockwise): the moccasin game with Caleb Collins; playing the straw game with Dr. Cam Shriver; crafts with Megan Sukalich; he bowl game with Andy Sawyer.

Aztec World Smellscapes

Students in **Elena Jackson Albarrán**'s HST 240B Ancient Aztec and Maya Worlds took a journey to the past, experiencing the smells and tastes of the pre-Hispanic world, in a sensory session held in the Wiikiaami Room. Smells included freshly toasted cacao beans, compost, dried shrimp, ocoxochitl herbs, copal, and more! Tastes included fresh corn tortillas, popcorn, amaranth bars, and prickly pear cactus fruits.

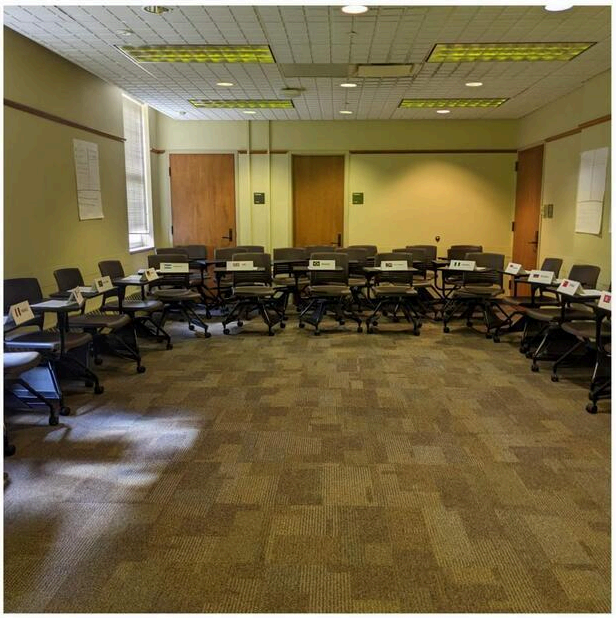



Model UN Simulations

Inspired by the Model UN Group he advises, **Indivar Jonnalagadda** ran three simulations in ITS 302 Problem-Solving in International Studies, to promote experiential learning on international diplomacy and conflict resolution: 1) A 2026 BRICS+ Summit where emerging powers negotiated a collective agenda; 2) An emergency UN Security Council meeting (pictured below) where they had to catch a nuclear weapons mafia and address an ongoing crisis; and 3) a Village Council meeting in an African Millennium Development Village seeing large numbers of climate refugees. Through extemporaneous debate and group work students arrived at collaborative and sustainable solutions in each case.







...and out of the classroom!

Madelyn Detloff and Gaile Pohlhaus took a van full of current and former WGS graduate certificate students to the Duke Feminist Theory Workshop from March 20-22.

Faculty News

Jonnalagadda Webinar on Urban Governance in India



"Regularization over Regulation: The Logic of Unplanned Urban Growth in India" | Thursday, May 14, 8:30am | Online

Indivar Jonnalagadda will be giving an webinar for the Publics@IIHS Lecture Series of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements. He will draw on ongoing research and a peer-reviewed article to show how Indian cities are fundamentally shaped by the systematic use of "regularization" in urban governance.

Register for the Webinar

Amador Presents to the Alexander Hamilton Society



In late April, **José Amador** delivered the talk to the Alexander Hamilton Society titled “What Are Trump’s Foreign Policy Goals in Latin America, and How Is the Region Responding to Them?” He traced the long, checkered history of U.S. military intervention in the region, highlighting how Washington has often installed pliant transitional figures rather than supporting genuine democratic movements. The presentation sparked a

lively discussion about whether today's competition for influence is shifting from traditional military power to economic and technological instruments, especially in light of the January 2026 U.S. capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and China's deepening role in regional supply chains, digital infrastructure, and power grids.

Alcalde Invited Lectures



In March, **Cristina Alcalde** participated as a panelist on the international panel discussion on Gender and the Evolution of Desire, moderated by BBC journalist Tanya Beckett and hosted by the University of Luxembourg's Gender Equality Office.

In April, she was an invited speaker at Mt. Holyoke College's annual BOOM! Symposium, an annual series of events that incorporate the diverse voices and experiences of students, faculty, staff and alums.

Detloff Presents at Book Event



In March, **Madelyn Detloff** did a public talk at an independent bookstore, Blue Heron Books, in High Falls, New York on her Norton Critical Edition of *Orlando,* and participated in a day-long community reading marathon of the text, as well as a screening of Paul Presciado's film, *Orlando: My Political Biography*.

Dannnies Summer Research Grant



Kate Dannies was awarded a summer Committee on Faculty Research (CFR) Award for her new book project "*Comings and Goings: Migration, Care, and Survival between the Ottoman Empire and the United States at the turn of the 20th Century".* She will be conducting research in Washington DC, Istanbul, and Sofia, Bulgaria this summer.

Sackeyfio Travels to Ghana, D.C.



In March, **Naaborle Sackeyfio** traveled to Ghana to present at the International Conference on the Political Economy of Just Energy Transitions and Inequality in Africa. She also recently attended the IMF and World Bank annual meeting in Washington D. C.

GIC Pet of the Month



Stella, a member of **Martha Sapiro**'s household, is (maybe) 14, but is young at heart. When you need a snuggle, she's got you. She has a big heart and loves all baby animals, and people she meets.

Don't be fooled by the winter pic: summer is here! Clock on the icon below to contribute to or download our **GIC 2026 Playlist**: songs that remind us of the year and that will stay with us through the summer.

Spotify

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

Global and Intercultural Studies Contact Info

513-529-5333 | MacMillan 120

Dr. Sande Garner, Chair

garners2@miamioh.edu

Martha Sapiro, Admin Assistant

sapiromc@miamioh.edu

Barb Bradley, Admin Assistant

bradlebj@miamioh.edu

Manage your preferences | Opt Out using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? Sign up to receive our future emails.
View this email online.

531 E Spring Street | Oxford, OH 45056 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.