

GLOBAL STUDIES PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

AY 2024/2025

ISSUE 1



Global Studies

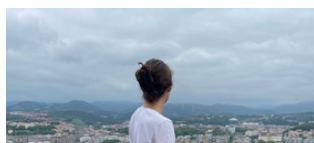
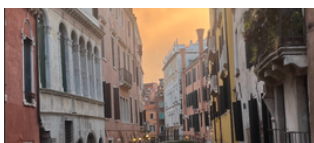
Educating students to engage critically and effectively with global issues

A message from our director. *I am happy to share our inaugural newsletter with you. At a time when global cooperation is under stress but global issues continue to challenge us, we keep growing and innovating in education for global competence. I hope you will feel as excited as I am when reading the news below.*

DR. FELIPE A. FILOMENO

Our amazing students. In the summer of 2024, Aziza Mattaka and Tasnim Rushdan were Maryland Public Service Scholars. This program offers a pathway for students who live or go to school in Maryland to build impactful careers in public service through a paid summer fellowship. As Aziza said, "We are a collective, and society works better if we have people willing to develop the skills of leadership and empathy to do these jobs. Those are the skills we cultivated a lot this summer."

Study abroad is the quintessential global experience of our majors. This academic year, our students went to Belgium, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Germany, and Italy.



Global Career Conversations. On April 10, Dr. Astra Bonini, Chief of the Integrated Policy Analysis Branch of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs – was the inaugural speaker of the Global Career Conversations. She spoke with students about the knowledge, skills, and values that can help them flourish in careers centered on global issues. Every spring, we will bring a distinguished global professional to share career advice with our majors.

New faculty. This fall, we will onboard Dr. Trang Ta as an Assistant Teaching Professor of Global Studies. She is an anthropologist with a career spanning Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the United States. She will teach Research Methods in Global Studies, Food for Thought, and Global Health and Wellbeing. Welcome, Dr. Ta!

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Curricular innovation. Dr. Brigid Starkey created GLBL 210 The Global Business Realm. Students learn intercultural business negotiation, social entrepreneurship, geopolitical risk analysis, and more for students considering global business careers. Dr. Filomeno developed GLBL 402 Collaborative Research in Global Studies, a lab-style course where students collaborate on a research project to develop research, professionalism, and teamwork skills.

High-impact learning. Transformative learning experiences have been a hallmark of our program. In fall 2024, visiting lecturer Zareen Taj took students on a field trip to Lutheran Social Services, where they learned about non-profit work in refugee resettlement.



In spring 2025, Dr. Filomeno offered the fourth edition of a collaborative online international learning program with a Brazilian university. In mixed small groups, students participated in a simulation of international climate policy advocacy. Check [this story](#) about Dr. Filomeno's COIL program in the UMBC Magazine.



In April, five GLBL majors presented their scholarly research at URCAD XXXIX.

Community-engaged research. In fall 2024, Dr. Tania Lizarazo's book Postconflict Utopias: Everyday Survival in Choco, Colombia was published by the University of Illinois Press. Dr. Lizarazo highlights members of COCOMACIA, a Black peasants' association defending collective territories, showing how their collaborative practices – like caretaking and showing up – enable survival and peace-building. Also in the fall of 2024, Temple University Press published Dr. Filomeno's book Christian Cosmopolitanism: Faith Communities Talk Immigration exploring how Christian congregations can foster solidarity across identity boundaries through deliberative dialogues about immigration.

Alumni, we'd love to hear from you! In the next edition of this newsletter, we will share professional and personal updates from our alumni. Please contact us with your news :)

Get in touch

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