

# Global Studies Newsletter

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the Director

Current Student News

Alumni News

Faculty News

Global Studies Club Information

Updates

## Message from the Director

Greetings from Global Studies at the University of Tennessee.

Prospective students who are considering Global Studies often ask me what they can do with our major. Usually I respond with a long list of career and graduate school possibilities which, the more I think about it, only scratches the surface. In that regard, as I read the recent news of our alumni who are listed in this newsletter, for example, I am dazzled by their creativity and commitment to being the best that they can be as socially responsible citizens locally and globally. I would like to think that their Global Studies major in no small measure has given them the tools necessary to create themselves with such a deep sense of



purpose. It is precisely that process of intellectual growth that defines our program as evidenced by the increasing number of our students who do study abroad, community service, internships with non-profits, and who excel in the classroom. In similar fashion, our faculty who represent a cross-section of the many academic departments and programs that make up

the College of Arts and Sciences and the University of Tennessee continue to develop their professional passions through their exemplary achievements as teacher-scholars. Indeed, I invite everyone to read this newsletter which clearly illustrates what one can do (and does) with a major in Global Studies. Un fuerte abrazo,  
**-Michael Handelsman**

## Current Student News

**Ediobong Ebiefung** will be graduating in May 2014 with a double major in Political Science and Global Studies. He did a semester of study abroad in Bulgaria during Spring 2013 and has been selected for the prestigious Humanity in Action fellowship to participate in an international workshop in the Netherlands during Summer 2014.

**Jackson Hale** is a senior in Global Studies. Jackson feels that the Global Studies major has allowed him the opportunity to develop a background that can translate to academic, business, and the public sector. He studied abroad during his junior year in Tokyo, Japan. While there he met leaders from the tech industry, spent afternoons with Buddhist monks learning about religious practice (and how to speak in Japanese like a mobster), and listened to the public speeches of politicians of the national election he witnessed. Currently, he is writing his senior thesis on New Religious Movements in Japan, in the context of the social, economic, and political context in which they are born. Jackson is also applying to the U.S Department of State internship program, where he hopes to gain the opportunity to work in embassies across the world.

---

## Alumni News

**Abby Ronner** graduated in May of 2010. She is currently working at an arts and culture non-profit in NYC that advocates for grassroots cultures throughout NYC and strives to foster the cultural heritage of the city through public programming, local historical preservation, and arts in education. Abby wishes to inform current Global Studies students of an intensive documentary institute her workplace is hosting this summer. The program will focus on the realm of urban culture (the many societies and cultures of NYC). For more information, please visit their website [citylore.org](http://citylore.org) and <http://citylore.org/urban-culture/city-lore-documentary-institute/>

**Kayla Samber** relocated to Denver, Colorado after graduation and began a career with Southwest Airlines. She is currently a Flight Attendant based in Denver, working with America's top-ranked and largest domestic airline. In the next few weeks, Kayla begins international training as Southwest begins its first international service this summer. Kayla says that the flight benefits are the greatest joy of her new career, and she takes monthly trips to her favorite international destinations.

**Anna Johnston** graduated from UT in December 2010. In the last year she has started graduate school in a Masters of Public Health Program focusing on Global Health at The George Washington University in Washington DC. She has worked at the World Food Program office in DC in the policy department and at The Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases in the research department. Over the next six months Anna will be working at World Vision in Zambia on a mother and child survival program. When she graduates in the fall she hopes to work in food security and humanitarian emergencies in developing countries.

**Rachel McKane** After completing a year in AmeriCorps, Rachel spent the fall semester interning at the International Rescue Committee in Tucson, AZ. She worked in immigration services assisting refugees with green card applications, citizenship applications, and family reunification documents. Rachel has received full scholarships to begin PhD programs in Sociology at the University of Virginia, University of Pittsburgh, and North Carolina State University. She hopes to make her final decision by the end of Spring 2014.

**Angel Elizabeth Byars** graduated in December 2013 and has just been named a finalist for a Fulbright Scholarship as an English Teaching Assistant at the Hellenic American Education Foundation in Greece. Final decisions will be made later in the spring.

**Jennifer Carberry** is in her first year of Teach for America, teaching global history in the Bronx at New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science. She is also pursuing her MS Ed at Hunter College in Manhattan. She has been accepted into a TFA fellowship called Values in Action, in which she helps corps members create community legacy projects in their schools.

**Philip Gilman** Over the last year, Philip has continued to pursue his Masters in Public Administration at the George Washington University, focusing on Urban Policy and Leadership. In August, he began an internship at Enterprise Community Partners, a national nonprofit organization centered on affordable housing development and finance. He is on the Public Policy team at Enterprise working to increase funding and awareness for affordable housing needs.

---

## **Faculty News**

**Les Essif** (MFLL--French and Francophone Studies) was on leave for Fall 2013 and traveled to France to do research for his book project on "America and 'World Totality' in Postcolonial Francophone Theatre." His "Reimaginings of 'America' and Cultural Identity in the Expatriate Drama of Koffi Kwahulé" appeared in the fall 2013 issue of *Comparative Drama*, and he has organized and will moderate a featured plenary panel on the French Théâtre du Soleil at the 2014 Comparative Drama Conference.

**Paul Gellert** (Sociology) received the Jefferson Award in Spring 2013.

**Rosalind I. J. Hackett** (Religious Studies) continues as President of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR). She has also been invited as a Mellon Fellow to the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Cape Town, May 2014. Her co-edited works *Media and Religious Transformations in Africa* and *The Anthropology of Global Evangelicalism and Pentecostalism* are heading to press. Last summer, Dr Hackett presented keynote lectures in Toronto, Manila, Aarhus, and Cape Town. She also took students to Uganda with UT's Gulu Study and Service Abroad Program (GSSAP).

**Michael Handelsman** (Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures) continues serving as the Director of Global Studies and is the Faculty Director of the Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships. He was recently inducted as a Corresponding Member in Ecuador's National Academy of Language, the second oldest chapter in Latin America of Spain's Royal Academy of Language. Several of his essays on Afro-Ecuadorian writers have been published during the current academic year in journals or as book chapters in Latin America and the United States.

**Jon Shefner** (Sociology) continues his work as Department Head of Sociology. He co-edited a book on how universities contribute, or should, to issues of social justice, entitled *Social Justice and the University*, which is being published in 2014 by Palgrave Press. His current research focuses on austerity policy and politics, and the Green Economy. He remembers his GS alumni well and fondly!

---

## Global Studies Club Information

The **Global Studies Club** is open to any student on campus who has an interest in global issues.

Just as no man is an island, in today's world no person, place, or thing is free from its global connections. In studying business, politics, literature, art, agriculture, we must look beyond borders to understand our world and our place within it. This understanding can only broaden horizons.

For this reason, several students founded the Global Studies Club. Promoting such a community not only gives students – global studies and not – an opportunity to work together, but it also allows us the opportunity to learn from one another.

### What does the Global Studies Club stand for?

The GS Club is a group dedicated to promoting global awareness, working with the community to show the global nature of today's world, and (*most importantly*) to have fun with other students of all kinds to build friendships that we can carry with us into our future careers.

### What is the Global Studies Club currently doing?

The GS Club will be publishing *Students for Popular Sovereignty*, working with other organizations to host and promote global awareness within the community, and generally working towards a more global atmosphere for the greater campus.

- **Jackson Hale**, Vice President of the Global Studies Club

---

## Updates

The Global Studies Program is pleased to introduce **Colleen Ryan** as the new Undergraduate Assistant for the program. She will begin this position full time in Fall 2014.

Any questions or concerns?

Please feel free to email Dr. Michael Handelsman, head of Global Studies, at:  
[handelsm@utk.edu](mailto:handelsm@utk.edu)

or Hannah LaPrise, current student assistant, at:  
[hlaprise@utk.edu](mailto:hlaprise@utk.edu)

or Colleen Ryan, up-and-coming student assistant, at:  
[cryan16@utk.edu](mailto:cryan16@utk.edu)