



**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT  
AND STUDENT NEWS**



**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT  
AND FACULTY AND  
ALUMNI NEWS**

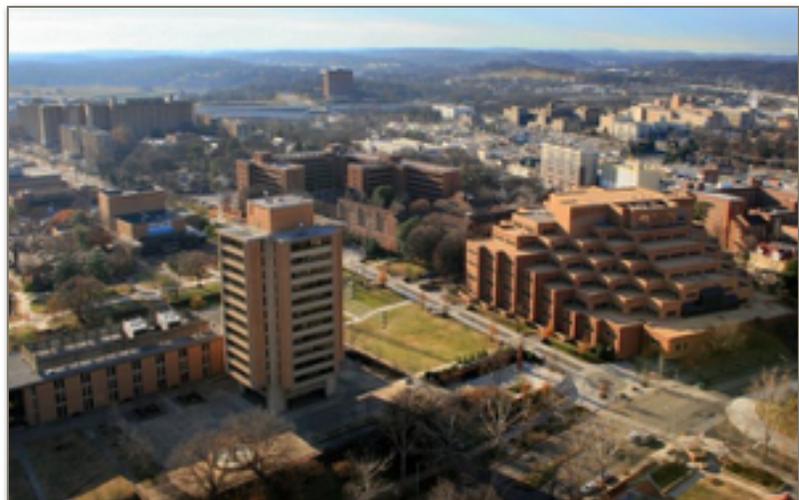


**CLUB SPOTLIGHT  
GLOBAL STUDIES  
CLUB GOES TO DC**

# GOING GLOBAL

## A Message From Our Chair

As yet another academic year approaches its final weeks, I am most happy to report that Global Studies at UT continues to thrive in multiple ways. Among the thirteen Interdisciplinary Programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, Global Studies is one of the two largest majors with 85 declared majors and many more minors. Perhaps more importantly, our students continue to broaden their academic and professional horizons through study abroad, community service,



internships, and research; many occupy leadership positions on campus and have devoted themselves to championing a variety of social causes on and off campus. The following collection of student accomplishments and activities is highly illustrative of the dynamic nature that characterizes our GLBS students and program, all of which is a genuine source of pride for those of us who have the privilege of learning with them.

Our faculty are indeed among the very best at UT; teaching, research, and service are the pillars of academic life, and GLBS faculty are making significant professional contributions to UT's efforts to become a Top 25 university. Our faculty are from twelve different academic departments which speaks volumes about our collective diversity, a diversity clearly visible in our Intro to GLBS course which is generally co-taught and invites as many as eight faculty members to discuss their areas of expertise in the context of the course. During Fall 2015, Professor Ian Down (Political Science) and Dr. Rebecca Klenk co-taught the Intro class; during Spring 2016, Professor Ron Kalafsky (Geography) and Chandra Dunn (Africana Studies) were the core faculty.

For academic year 2016-17, plans are underway to create a 400-level capstone class for GLBS majors. The capstone will focus on professional and career development and devote most of the semester to analyzing a particular theme (e.g., sustainability, food security, immigration, human trafficking, climate change, etc.) within a globalized context. A second project for next year is to begin to invite to campus on a regular basis some of our GLBS alumni who will share their professional and career experiences in light of their GLBS preparation. Our alumni's accomplishments and experiences are always a source of motivation and guidance for our majors and minors.

*“dynamic nature that characterizes our GLBS students and program.”*

In closing, please be sure to check out our GLBS website (globalstudies.utk.edu), and enjoy reading the Newsletter.

Saludos, Dr. Michael Handelsman

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# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

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## Will Gilman

Last spring, I was selected as a recipient to the Congressional Internship Program for the 2015 fall semester. This program is directed by the Center for Leadership and Service and affords students with the opportunity to live and work in the nation’s capital. I then accepted an internship position on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee through the office of Senator Bob Corker.

This internship allowed me to witness aspects of several crucial foreign policy decisions, including the debate over the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, also known as the Iran Deal, and the US response to the humanitarian crisis and conflict in Syria.

I was provided with opportunities to attend hearings, sit in on meetings, and assist staffers with research and projects. This experience offered valuable insight into how a congressional committee functions and how the staffers and senators work in coordination to formulate policy or direct aspects of various US programs.

This semester, I am studying abroad in Amman, Jordan and taking classes on Middle Eastern history and politics, as well as Arabic. The experience of living in Jordan has had incredible moments including crusader castles, ancient Roman ruins, swimming in the Dead Sea, and scuba diving in the Gulf of Aqaba.

The opportunity to live in a country that reflects so many global challenges is both fascinating and illuminating. The challenges of limited water resources, influxes of refugees, and security concerns are paralleled with a vibrant, modern city with incredibly welcoming people.

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# STUDENT NEWS

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**“The opportunity to live in a country that reflects so many global challenges is both fascinating and illuminating.”**



Will Gilman spent Fall 2015 interning with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee before spending Spring 2016 abroad in Jordan.

*Ben Bergman*- This summer I will be interning in the Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy Office of the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau of the State Department (the INL/PAPD for short). The internship is part of the two year Foreign Service Internship Program (USFSIP for short). This semester I will also be publishing a research paper in Pursuit, the undergraduate research journal. The paper examines the origins and mutations of Southern Nigeria's Confraternity scene.

*Shelby Cundiff*- I am having a delightful time studying in Granada, Spain and feel I have really concentrated myself in the desires for my future.

*Cooper Hall*- I have spent this past semester studying in Chiang Mai, Thailand. I finally made it here! On top of studying, I have been traveling around Southeast Asia on the weekends and during holidays.

*Savannah Hallmark*- I had my last interview for an internship for this summer and was selected. The internship will be in the Financial and Administrative Division under the Secretary of State's office in the Tennessee Tower (Nashville). Secretary Harriet is the one who interviewed me.

*Amber Heeke*- I'm a French major with a Spanish and Global Studies minor and I'll be studying abroad for the second time this Fall; this time in South America (Valparaiso, Chile)!

*Karen Lageson*- I've accepted an offer to study at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, studying a Masters in International Conflict Analysis. It's a year long program and I'll be leaving for England this coming August! I'm very excited to be back abroad and to travel and experience school in a different environment.

*Jarah Phillips*- For my senior year I have been juggling two 18 hour semesters while managing the International Department at the UPS Hub here in Knoxville. I was promoted to the position in the summer. This spring semester, I have been going through the promotion process with UPS as I prepare to graduate in May.

*Colleen Ryan*- I will be participating in a summer internship with the Office of Transition Initiatives at the US Agency for International Development in Washington, DC. I have spent the year working with the Bureau for Conflict, Democracy and Humanitarian Assistance at USAID. This year I have also joined the Baker Scholars Program, and I was the recipient of the Courage to Climb Award in February.

*Paige Scrivener*- I am still abroad in Shanghai [as a Boren Scholar], but recently did some traveling to Hanoi, Vietnam and Hong Kong. My program held lectures discussing the growing influence from mainland China as well as the Western world, particularly the US. I have two more months left here and then I will be home for the summer as I research jobs for my federal service requirement and look into graduate school options.

*Martha Tabor*- I've been studying in Den Haag this spring! The political and multicultural environment offered by this city has been an incredible opportunity for me to grow both academically and personally. While I have spent a great deal of time getting to know The Netherlands, I have also traveled quite a bit thanks to the cheap and easy transportation available in Europe! So far I've managed to visit German, Belgium, France, Italy, Austria, Hungary, and the Czech Republic! It's

been a really wonderful opportunity and I could not have achieved it without the encouragement of the Global Studies department.

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## ALUMNI UPDATES

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*Philip Gilman-* My wife Stephanie and I are living in Atlanta with our dog and enjoying Southern weather, hiking, and climbing. I am now a Senior Policy Analyst at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs--the affordable housing financing agency for the state. I work with our external stakeholders to update and improve our policies and develop new programs and initiatives.

*Kayla Samber-* I am four years into my career as an international flight attendant at Southwest Airlines, now living in both Nashville and Denver. I've found the epitome of my interest in Global Studies through a co-worker formed non-profit, Airline Vigilantes, in which Southwest Airlines crew members use their flight benefits to do philanthropic work, most recently in Thailand, the Philippines, and Cambodia.

*Ashley Thomas-* In the future, I would love for the GLBS Club to visit the Greenpeace HQ in DC. We went there when I was in the Global Studies Club and it helped guide the way for me to find a profession here (as well as with the Clinton Foundation). Let me know if I can help in any way!

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## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

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### Madhuri Sharma

After completing my PhD in Geography from Ohio State University in 2009, I started my professional/academic career with the Department of Geography at University of Tennessee. My broad research interests include understanding patterns and processes of racial/ethnic residential intermixing, poverty, inequality and economic opportunities within the urban context of USA and India. Within USA, major topics of interest include understanding influence of contemporary housing market elements on residential choice(s) and how might they impact segregation and/or intermixing at inter-urban and intra-urban spaces. My work focuses on using measures of (un)evenness and inequality such as the Theil Entropy Index (E), a measure of intermixing (or segregation) among multiple groups and at nested scales of geographies. In exploring the patterns and processes of intermixing, diversity, income inequality and economic opportunities, I use a mix of statistical methods along with qualitative methods such as in-depth open-ended interviews, surveys and participatory urban appraisal tools with households and communities that add nuanced perspectives on the processes contributing to intermixing.



Recently, I have also started focusing on income divide and how might that affect health outcomes of those in the lowest income brackets if the society. I have earned some small grants to investigate this new topic and I will be mostly focusing in the metropolises of Tennessee. In context to developing world/South Asia, my ongoing research focuses on the role of informal economy in shaping the residential (and commercial) spaces in urban areas of India. This includes examining how the labor engaged in informal economy make decisions concerning domestic and cross-border migrations and how those decisions create distinct spaces of poverty, slums and urban villages in intra-urban spaces.

At a national level, I am very active with the Ethnic Geography Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers (AAG). Having served on its Board member and executive body for several years, I start my two year term as the Chair of this Specialty Group and my term will continue from April 2 2016 up until March 2018. Simultaneously, I have also been active with the regional division of the AAG and have served as the State Representative for Tennessee, for the Southeastern Division of the AAG during 2013-2015. In addition, I continue to serve on various committees at the College level and within my department. In terms of scholarship, I have continued to publish manuscripts in peer reviewed/high ranking journals such as Applied Geography, Urban Geography, Regional Science Policy and Practice, Southeastern Geographer, International Journal of Geospatial and Environmental Research and several other edited book volumes.

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## FACULTY UPDATES

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*Scott Frey, Paul Gellert, and Harry Dahms* (Sociology) co-organized and presented research at a two-day conference on Ecologically Unequal Exchange: Environmental Injustice in Comparative and Historical Perspective held at UT in October 2015. Paper presenters from UT also included Professors Shellen Wu (history, China) and Raja Swamy (anthropology, India). Papers from the conference are being compiled into two publications, an edited book with Palgrave Press and a special issue of the Journal of World-Systems Research.

*Rosalind I. J. Hackett* (Religious Studies) was elected as a Vice President of UNESCO's humanities council in October 2014 and became an Honorary Life Member of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) in August 2015 after two terms as President (2005-2015). She is currently participating in an international research project funded by the Norwegian Refugee Council, Indigenous Religion(s). Local Grounds, Global Networks. Professor Hackett also serves on the Steering Committee of the African Consortium on Law and Religion Studies that will meet this May in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

*Michael Handelsman* (Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures and Director of Global Studies) received a University of Tennessee President's Citation of Merit for Public Outreach in Spring 2016, and in the College of Arts and Sciences received an Outstanding Service Award and an Outstanding Advising Award in December 2015.

*Tricia Hepner* (Anthropology) published a new book, *African Asylum at a Crossroads: Activism, Expert Testimony, and Refugee Rights* (Ohio University Press, 2015), examining the role of expert knowledge in the refugee status determination process. She also won a Post-PhD grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Fieldwork for a collaborative project titled “Spirits of the Dead and Transitional Justice in Northern Uganda.” The research draws faculty and graduate students in the Disasters, Displacement and Human Rights Program (DDHR) together with Ugandan researchers and survivors of the 22+ year civil war to address the ongoing problem of the missing and unidentified dead in local and national justice and reconciliation efforts.

*Brandon Prins* (Political Science and the Baker Center) received a supplemental grant from the Office of Naval Research to continue his research on the nexus between armed insurgency and maritime piracy (~\$200,000). He also did a local NPR interview that focused on maritime piracy (<http://wuot.org/post/mapping-pirates#stream/o>).

*Micheline van Riemsdijk* (Geography) received the Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award from the National Council for Geographic Education. She will lead a workshop on the governance of international skilled migration at Qatar University in June and she is organizing a study abroad program on The Age of Migration to Oslo and London.

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## GLOBAL STUDIES STUDENTS TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON

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Spring break is usually a time for college students to relax and take a break from their studies; however, some students view it as an opportunity to accomplish things they wouldn't otherwise have time to do. Four students affiliated with the University of Tennessee's Global Studies Club made just such a decision in March, 2016 when they set aside part of their spring break to visit representatives of our government in Washington, D.C.

Juniors Grant Currin, Will Gabelman, Will Clifft, and freshman Dara Carney-Nedelman were invited by members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to speak so senior staffers Caleb McCary, Christopher Tuttle, and Joe Curtsinger. The committee, chaired by Tennessee Senator Bob Corker, is one of the original standing committees within the Senate and is charged with leading foreign-policy legislation, overseeing foreign aid programs, and overseeing U.S. diplomatic efforts among many other things.

Held in Senator Corker's office, the students were able to quiz the staffers for over half an hour about the daily activities of Foreign Relations Committee staffers, as well as ask about the steps the staffers took during and following their own undergraduate careers to obtain a position on the committee.

The staffers described the daily life of a committee member as extremely variable from day to day. For example, on one day a typical staffer may be helping to research policy points for legislation

regarding U.S. economic sanctions on another country, and on another day they may be working to foster bipartisan agreement on the confirmation of a new U.S. diplomat. The assignments given to each staffer will likely differ depending on which subcommittee the staffer works for (there are seven subcommittees, and each can be found and read about at <https://www.foreign.senate.gov>).

Each staffer also spoke about the way in which he had reached his current post on the committee. They explained that, because the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations is one of the largest Senate committees, there are a variety of ways to secure a job. For example, Christopher Tuttle reached his post by first interning with his own state's senator and then working his way up through the ranks of the government to become a policy director. McCary, on the other hand, worked closely with an N.G.O. in Latin America and was hired onto the committee after amassing years of specialized expertise in Latin American affairs. Finally, Mr. Curtsinger had pursued yet another route to the committee: he graduated from UTK only a few years ago in 2011, attended graduate school directly afterwards, and was able to join the Senate Committee after graduation due to an outstanding academic career.

Overall the session was extremely informative, enjoyable, and the members of the Global Studies Club were incredibly grateful for the opportunity presented to them. The club hopes to have a similar trip, perhaps even more extensive trip, again next year.

For those students interested by such a trip or by a career in the foreign affairs branch of the federal government, consider a major in global studies! The global studies major is one of the University of Tennessee's most flexible degrees, and allows students to pursue educational tracks in either "culture and society" or in "politics and economy." The global studies major prepares students for post-college life by exposing them to the varied and intricately linked cultural, political, and economic systems which influence the world around us, and opens the door to careers in such organizations as: the Foreign Service, USAID, N.G.O.s, Peace Corps, TEFL programs (teaching English as a foreign language), environmental organizations, market research, anthropology, and many, many more!

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## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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To learn more about Global Studies at UTK, contact:

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