



INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND LANGUAGES  
20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR-END NEWSLETTER

***We study  
the places,  
languages  
and cultures  
of the globe.***



# ISL Students Presenting at Conferences

During the SCUSA 2024 conference, I was able to listen and learn from amazing speakers, collaborate and build friendships with other students interested in foreign policy, and learn a little bit more about the academic experience for students of United States Military Academies. This year, the conference was focused on the topic of American foreign policy in a multipolar world, and I participated in a roundtable discussion on managing conflict and cooperation in the Arctic. I learned about ecological and security concerns in the Arctic, and how the United States might work toward solutions, while building connections with experts on the Arctic region and students from around the world.

—Gabby Johnson (pictured front row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left)



The Social Sciences Division invited me to attend the 70th Annual MSC Student Conference on National Affairs at Texas A&M which brings together college students from U.S. military academies and top universities to have discussions on critical national issues and create policy proposals. I was able to participate in the "Star Wars" roundtable where we proposed the creation of an international organization to better regulate satellite infrastructure and safeguard connectivity from threats made by adversaries. We presented this to a panel of judges and made it to the final round! The experience taught me the value of dialogue across specializations since it allowed us to combine expertise in U.S. military space capabilities with scholarly knowledge of International Space Law.

—Jessica Locke (pictured front row, center)



Pepperdine's Model United Nations team excelled at four collegiate MUN conferences in the 2024-2025 academic year. At Georgetown University, our most experienced delegates competed in the Adhoc General Assembly, the crisis committee of Joseon Korea (1834), the crisis committee of the USS Nimitz, the crisis committee of the cabinet of Belisario Betancur (1985), and the joint crisis committee of the Federation of Malaya (1963). At UC Santa Barbara, our new delegates' experience with public speaking, negotiation, and resolution writing grew exponentially over the four days. William Hibbard, won "Best Delegate" in a crisis committee! At McGill University in Montreal, the team had delegates in a variety of different committees. William Hibbard, once again, won "Best Delegate" in an ad-hoc crisis committee and a freshman, Camille Day, won "Verbal Commendation" in a General Assembly committee of more than 100 delegates during her first conference. The team finished the season at ChoMUN at the University of Chicago. Congratulations to our future diplomats!



Leo Hawke will be attending the Conference on East-West Cross-Cultural Relations: "Dialogues and exchanges between the Luso-Hispanic World, the Middle East and Asia". He will travel to the conference in Lima, Peru in May where he will present on Chinese immigration in Mexico.

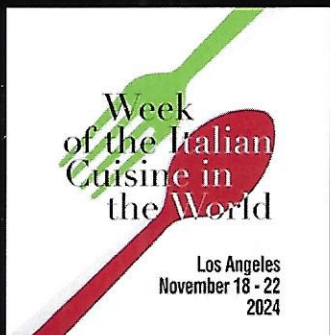


ISL student, Sydney Nystrom, presented at the International Studies Association (ISA) West conference September 27-28, 2004 in Pasadena, CA. The other student pictured is William Hibbard from POSC.

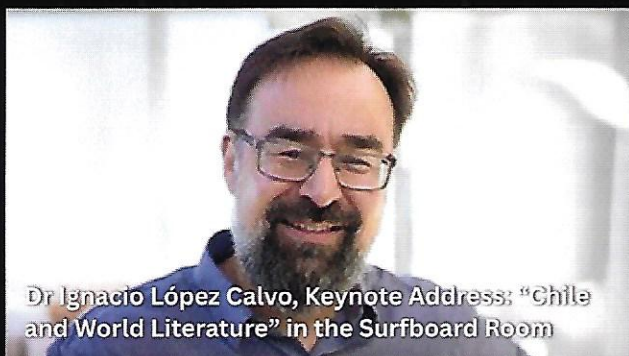
# International Education Week 2024



International Chapel in Stauffer Chapel



Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Honor Society Salsa Night Dance Lesson and Taco Stand on PLC patio



Dr. Ignacio López Calvo, Keynote Address: "Chile and World Literature" in the Surfboard Room



Italian Gastronomy Week

italyinfo and 5 others  
Original audio

italyinfo What a great turnout we had at the panel discussion organized with the Italian Studies Program of @pepperdine and @comiteslosangeles on the occasion of the Malibu celebration of 9th Week of Italian Cuisine in the World. 🇮🇹

After a special reception with authentic Italian products by @tuscanyathome\_ and @denigris1889usa we discussed about the health benefits and the use of two iconic Italian staples: olive oil and balsamic vinegar. 🇮🇹

A special thanks 🇮🇹 goes to Professor Brittany Corbucci, who moderated and co-organized the event together with Italian major students, and our panelists Dr. Maura Fanti, researcher at Dr. Valter Longo's USC Longevity Institute; Chef Tommaso Iorio, founder of "Tuscany at Home"; Fabrizio Cuomo of De Nigris balsamic vinegar; and Dr. Sunnie DeLano, Pepperdine professor and director of the Nutritional Science Certificate Program.

SEAVER NEWSROOM FEATURE | NOVEMBER 25, 2024  
BY DAVID HOLDEN

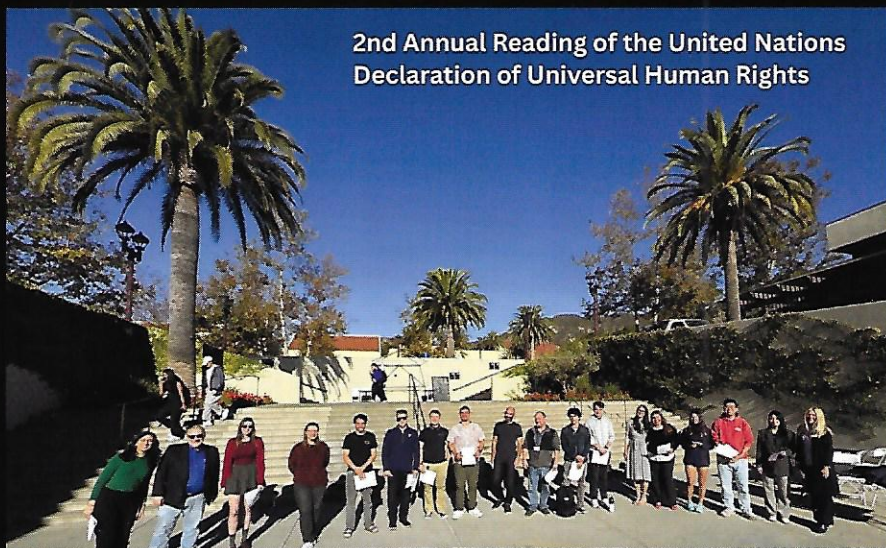
## International Studies and Languages Division of Seaver College Celebrates 20th Anniversary with International Education Week

The Seaver College International Studies and Languages (ISL) Division celebrated its 20th anniversary as one of Pepperdine University's eight academic divisions by hosting International Education Week on the Malibu campus.

"We study the places, languages and cultures of the globe," says George Carlsen, professor of Hispanic studies and dean of the division. "That's the slogan of ISL; we believe that we are not called to be insular. Rather, we are here to focus on the world around us, to engage with and learn other languages, and to connect with different cultures and peoples. We view it as part of our Christian mission."

This global focus swept over the campus community for one week, as Carlsen and his division produced 10 unique events highlighting international perspectives for students, faculty, staff, and local residents to enjoy. Soccer games, an introduction to international cuisines, a job fair aimed at assisting international students, salsa dancing lessons, a global chapel, and a cohort of diverse, engaging speakers were some of the events that Seaver College hosted during this celebration. The festivities incorporated all aspects of culture—from food and language to the arts and athletics. Similar to the celebration, the ISL Division at Pepperdine University is known for its interdisciplinary nature. With four majors (International Studies, French Studies, Hispanic Studies, and Italian Studies) and five minors (Asian Studies, French Studies, German Studies, Hispanic Studies, and Italian Studies), the program provides students with an opportunity to develop cultural competencies that aid in their professional development.

[Read the rest of the article online at Seaver Newsroom >>](#)



2nd Annual Reading of the United Nations Declaration of Universal Human Rights

# Out and About with Pepperdine ISL

A few of the insightful and enriching events ISL hosted in 2024-25



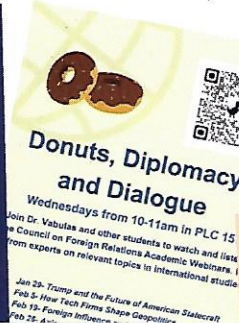
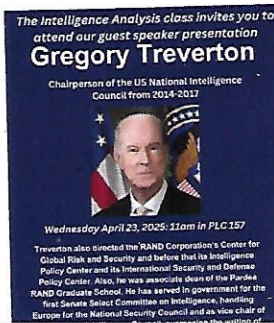
Prof. April Marshall with Hispanic Studies students at the Encuentro Theater Festival in Fall 2024. The Festival was produced by The Latino Theater Company and held at the Los Angeles Theater Center.



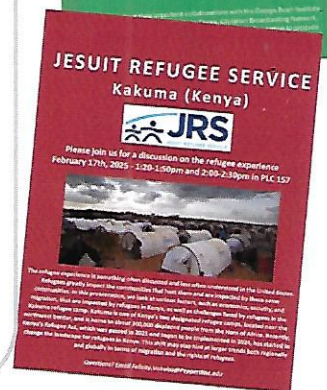
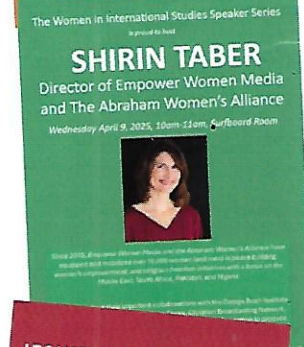
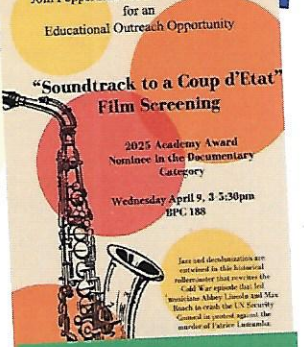
Sigma Delta Pi, the prestigious Hispanic Studies honor society, led by faculty advisor Roshawnda Derrick, held a memorable initiation ceremony for its new members in November 2024. This event celebrated academic excellence, cultural appreciation, and the dedication of students to the study of Spanish language and cultures.



Our 14th annual Heart of Los Angeles tour of Pepperdine was hosted by the Hispanic Studies Capstone students and ISL on Saturday, March 22nd. We had 72 HoLA guests including middle and high schoolers as well as their parents from after-school education centers in Macarthur Park, Watts, Long Beach, and Koreatown.



In September, ASIA 310 took a class field trip to dinner at OOMASA before attending "Love Suicide at Sonezaki," first performed in 1703. This production was a collaboration with Miyazaki's Studio Ghibli, which designed the background scenery. There was a demonstration and brief history of the UNESCO heritage art form, as well.



## A Note from Dean Carlsen

"I could not be more proud of our ISL graduates, current students, faculty and staff rising up to meet and overcome the challenges of this last academic year. The achievements listed in this newsletter are just a fraction of the incredible work being done in our division. If you are a graduate, please keep in touch with your professors, we love hearing about all of the amazing things you will go on and do. Kudos to all!"

— George Carlsen,  
Divisional Dean International  
Studies and Languages, Seaver  
College, Pepperdine University



### Global Tides Podcast

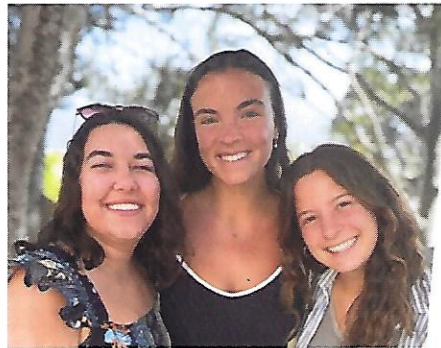
Basia Olewska and Nikolus Gashi co-hosted this year's Pepperdine Global Tides Podcast, an undergraduate podcast in which interviews are conducted with individuals connected to the field of International Studies. Basia and Niko hosted conversations with students, professors, and professionals, during which they addressed the uncertainty of future plans. They also discussed international affairs and ways in which the greater Pepperdine community is connected globally.

[digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/globaltides](https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/globaltides)

### Global Tides Publication

Edited by ISL students (pictured L-R) Lorien Ayabe, Molly Sheridan, Gabby Johnson (and not pictured) Evan Pallis. This year's publications will be posted soon on Pepperdine Digital Commons. Authors and articles:

- Barbara O. Olewska: *"La puissance douce française manifestée par les politiques linguistiques en Afrique"*
- Gabriel Smedes: *"The Increasing Prevalence of Cyber Operations and the Inadequacy of International Law to Address Them"*
- Jadyn Lucey: *"Measuring the Paris Agreement's Impact on Wind Energy Usage in Member Countries"*
- Anna E. Stephens: *"Colonial Legacies and Gender Equality: A Study of Women's Rights in Angola & Namibia"*
- Olivia B. Berryman: *"Talking Trash: The Development of International Legal Governance Over Marine Plastic Pollution"*



Current Volume: Volume 5 (2023)

Humanities
Barbara O. Olewska: "La puissance douce française manifestée par les politiques linguistiques en Afrique"
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Religion
Emily Carter: "The Value of the Environmental Movement"
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Social Sciences
Emily Carter: "The Value of the Environmental Movement"

## Shout Outs!



Griffie Mapps co-authored an article with Dr. Winter (Straus Institute) in the AI and Ethics Journal.



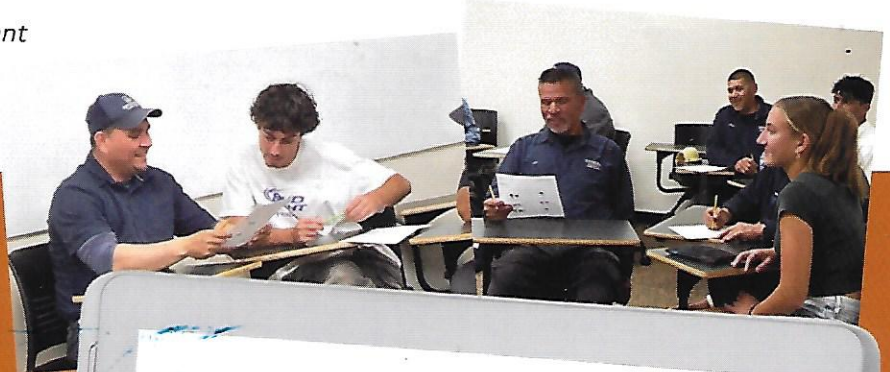
Hannah Sharp received "Best Speaker" in the EspanYODL #4 spanish debate tournament.



Leilani Frailich was an Open Division quarterfinalist at the 2025 Social Justice Debates National Championships.



Griffie Mapps oversaw the inaugural Sudreau Global Justice Institute's "Justice Week" which featured speakers Gary Haugen, Bob Goff, and Jim Gash. He also organized "Carnival for a Cause."



November 06, 2024



### Academic Success Tip: Cross-Campus Collaboration and Language Exchange

Pepperdine students and facilities staff practice speaking Spanish and English together, building relationships and facilitating learning across departments.



Pepperdine International Studies and Languages featured on Inside Higher Ed  
[Read here >>](#)



**Sydney Nystrom**

International Studies  
Outstanding Graduate

Sydney is graduating with a double major in International Studies and French. She has published two peer-reviewed articles, presented her research at ISA West Conference, and was nominated by INTS faculty to represent Pepperdine at the 2025 Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference. Sydney was the co-host of the Global Tides Podcast and was vice president of the Sudreau Global Justice Club. She was a Global Fellow and served as the Program Ambassador upon her return to Malibu. She was a student ambassador for the grand opening of Pepperdine's new campus in Switzerland, worked as an intern with Securitas, and conducted research for the American Foreign Policy Council during her semester in Washington, D.C.



**Eliot Cox**

German Studies  
Outstanding Graduate

When Eliot's family was selected by International Programs as the 2016-17 academic year Heidelberg faculty family, he moved with his family and lived in Heidelberg, Germany for one year, where he was enrolled in a German Realschule. The semester before their departure, he started intensive German language classes and then, upon his arrival to Germany, he participated in a month-long German language program in Sankt Blasien run by the Goethe Institut. Since then, Eliot has considered Germany his second home, and has worked to better understand its language and culture. It felt a natural step in college to continue studying the language, as he hoped to one day return to Europe and use German in his private and professional life. More important to Eliot, however, is the appreciation he gained for German culture during his time in the language program at Pepperdine and when he studied as a sophomore in Pepperdine's Heidelberg International program. Studying German has given him a deep appreciation for the world and, in the best moments, reminds him what it is like to be in the place which changed his life.



**Bryce Jones**

Hispanic Studies  
Outstanding Graduate

Bryce Jones is passionate about languages! He studied with Pepperdine in both Argentina and Spain, even returning a second time to Buenos Aires. Bryce, a Posse Scholar, was also active on campus. He was a leader in our campus chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society. Bryce loves learning about linguistics and is a very talented baker in his free time.



**Samantha Lee**

Asian Studies  
Outstanding Graduate

Samantha Lee is pursuing a career in Physical Therapy and will be taking some time off post graduation to gain more work experience, as well as, apply to a doctorate program for Physical Therapy. She hopes to incorporate her foundations of art and Asian Studies into her practices, taking a unique perspective into the healthcare field.



**Molly Sheridan**

French Studies  
Outstanding Graduate

Molly Sheridan is a double major in French Studies and International Studies (Global Politics Emphasis) from Nashville, TN. During the 2021-22 academic year, she served on the Les Petites Conversations Executive Board as an ICC Representative. She continued serving on the LPC Executive Board as President during 2022-23. In the summer of 2022, she studied abroad in Switzerland as part of the Pepperdine French Homestay Program. She also studied abroad in Switzerland for the 2023-24 academic year, during which she served as a French tutor at the Château d'Hauteville. During 2024-25, she worked as a French tutor in the Student Success Center and worked with Dr. Kelle Marshall as part of the Faculty Student Mentor Program. In 2024, she was named as President of Pi Delta Phi. After graduation, she will travel to Benin, where she will continue to use French as a Peace Corps Volunteer.



**Tessa McClinton**

Italian Studies  
Outstanding Graduate

Tessa McClinton is from Birmingham, Alabama, and is graduating with a double major in International Studies and Italian Studies. Throughout her time at Pepperdine, she has studied abroad at the Florence and Washington, DC campuses and participated in the Global Fellows Leadership Program. She spent two months studying the Italian language in Perugia, has tutored Italian for two years and acts as the co-president of the Cultural Italian American Organization (CIAO) Club on campus. In the years to come, she hopes to pursue a career in international relations and human rights and plans to take the Italian language everywhere she goes!