

Welcome to Fall :)

From Global Connections <GlobalConnections@wildapricot.org>

Date Fri 9/18/2026 7:44 PM

To Sharp, Rose <rls5932@psu.edu>



September

Hello everyone! I hope you have been enjoying the slightly chillier weather! I went to NYC last week and tried something new. I went to an event focused on Arab music and culture. It reminded me of why I love being part of this organization and the heart our community has for our neighbors and learning about other cultures!

RESCHEDULED: International Potluck



FALL INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK

SEPT. 27

12-2PM

Sunset Park

850 McKee St, State College, PA

FREE



Join us for another international potluck!

Bring yourself and a dish to share!

Does my dish need to be international?

No, foods from around the globe (including the U.S.) are welcome!

We will provide paper products, cutlery, some drinks, and extra entrees to share!

Email wzfl1@psu.edu with any questions

This publication is available in alternative media on request. Penn State is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status. The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact wzfl1@psu.edu in advance of your participation or visit.

Date: September 27

Time: 12-2PM

FREE

Location: Sunset Park - 850 McKee St, State College, PA

Additional food provided will be from The Koop and Chew Chew Bun!

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

Membership Meeting Upcoming



2026 Annual General Body Meeting

THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT EXEC TEAM

Bob Persiko, President

Ciara Halloran, Vice President

Bruce Truitt, Treasurer

Alexandra Persiko, Secretary

Rose Sharp, Public Relations

Jordan Durst, Cultural Events Coordinator

Deb Leo, Small Groups Chair

It's almost time for our annual membership meeting!

Save the Date!

Tentative Date: November 12, 2026

Time: 7:00PM

Agenda and list of positions eligible for election coming.

SAVE THE DATE: Türkiye Cultural Event

Look out for our link to sign up for the November cultural event featuring Türkiye!

Date: November 7, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Friends Meeting House

Admission: Ticketed

RSVP Link: Coming Soon!

Menu: TBD

Re-Cap Kazakhstan Cultural Event



On May 23, Global Connections hosted a Kazakhstan-themed cultural event which featured several main dishes, desserts, and beverages. A team of 10 cooks, who are also visiting Scholars, prepared the food. Each year, a new cohort of scholars visit Penn State with sponsorship from the government of Kazakhstan.

After the dinner, one of the scholars gave a presentation on their country, its cuisine and culture. Then all of the Kazakhs serenaded the attendees with a song. The event was held in the State College Friends Meeting House, which graciously allowed GC to use its kitchen and social room. 65 people attended the meal, which resulted in a contribution to the GC coffers of \$416. We in Global Connections are happy that this year we have been able to revive one of the most popular traditional activities – formerly known as “cultural luncheons” - and we look forward to hosting more cultural events in the future.

Volunteer Needed: Vice President

Global Connections is eager to find someone who would be willing to stand for election in November to serve as vice president in 2027.

Organizations need leaders to bring new perspectives and energy to managing their affairs. Our bylaws were written in such a way to encourage this kind of dynamism, but the paucity of volunteers has made it necessary to retain our president for several terms. Sooner or later, this pattern will have to change. We seek a smooth transition rather than an abrupt one, which is why we need to lay the groundwork for the organization's evolution. Please consider this as an opportunity to keep Global Connections thriving.

If you or someone you know is interested, please email gc-cc.org to schedule a brief meeting to discuss the role.

Executive Spotlight: Jordan Durst

This month, we're excited to spotlight Jordan Durst, our Cultural Events

the history, and she credits her passion for international experiences, community, and meaningful connections reflects the heart of our mission.

Originally from Western Kentucky, Jordan has called State College home for about five years after coming to the area for undergraduate studies at Penn State. Her academic journey led her to major in Community, Environment, and Development, with a focus on International Development. Although she says she initially “stumbled upon” the major, it ultimately became the right path by combining her desire to work abroad with meaningful, fulfilling work.

Jordan’s global experiences have taken her far beyond State College. She spent approximately six months studying in Siem Reap, Cambodia, and also completed an internship in Kisumu, Kenya. These experiences reflect her interest in learning from different cultures and communities around the world.

Jordan first learned about Global Connections through Ag Science Global this past spring. Although she is still new to the organization, she says being involved has already given her opportunities to interact meaningfully with people of different ages and cultural backgrounds. For Jordan, intentionally connecting with others is especially important, and her experience with Global Connections has reinforced the value of being an active member of the community.

Outside of her academic and international interests, Jordan loves spending time outdoors, especially hiking, swimming, and surfing. Her perspective on life centers around embracing both positive and difficult experiences and allowing them to help you grow.

We’re excited to have Jordan as part of the Global Connections community and look forward to seeing the connections and experiences she continues to build!





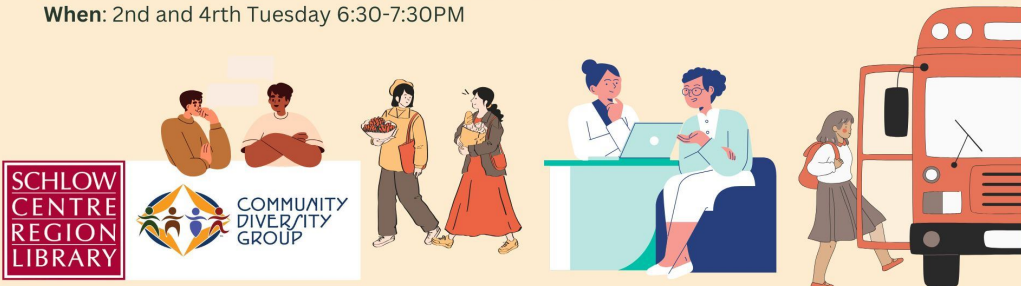
Follow us on Instagram (@GlobalConnectionsCentreConnections) to see more executive spotlights this Fall!

Schlow & Community Diversity Group

ESL Discussion Circle

Practice common scenarios at this informal discussion circle. Talk about books, videos, current events, hobbies, or anything else that interests you. Learn about the many resources that the library offers!

Where: Schlow Library Sun Room (next to the stairs)
When: 2nd and 4th Tuesday 6:30-7:30PM



[Learn More](#)

Global Connections Resources:

Discussion Group

The Global Connections discussion group meets every Wednesday at 11:00 via Zoom to share cultural values and perspectives on a variety of topics. Once a month the group meets in person at a restaurant for social interaction and enjoying a meal.

Please reach out to gc.gc-cc.org to receive the zoom link!

Check out our last lunch together from Mosul Grille below (I got distracted by the food and forgot to take pictures of the lovely people who attended)!

Citizenship Test

Our very own Bruce Truitt has created a random question generator from the list of study questions used for the U.S. Citizenship Test. Feel free to share this resource with anyone who may benefit!

Click on the link below to download the information sheet and gain access to the question generator:

[Citizenship Test Study Question Generator](#)

Community & English Resources



COMMUNITY & ENGLISH RESOURCES



[Click here](#) to download the most recent version of our Language, Health, and Community Resources for the State College area.

This document provides comprehensive information in many different languages about institutions, organizations, communications, and resources of interest to international and immigrant citizens in such areas as English language learning, health insurance for children, nutrition assistance for women, infants, and children, and so much more. It will undoubtedly help you or someone you know.

Note: Just opening the document online will not activate all hyperlinks. It must be downloaded and then opened. If you get a pop-up message about updating links, click <No>.

Penn State Global Opportunities



PennState Global

Global Bites

Food & Culture Exchanging

Global Bites is a cozy food-centered gathering that highlights one or two cultures at a time. We hope you will join us for a deeper and more personal culture exploration of global traditions.

For more info, scan the QR code.



Time: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Location: HUB 131
Dates:
2026: Oct. 21; Dec. 3;
2027: Feb. 3; Apr. 12.





"What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?"

- George Eliot

Upcoming In Town:

Centre County Film Festival 2026

November 2-8

The Centre Film Festival is a week-long celebration of film and conversation connecting local voices with global ones through media arts, workshops and masterclasses.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

SECRET PLANET // ROGÊ (BRAZIL)

September 27, 2026

7:00 PM 9:00 PM

Latin Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Rogê is one of Brazil's most vibrant contemporary voices, blending samba, soul, funk, and MPB into a warm, groove-driven sound.

[Click Here for More Information](#)



This message has been sent to you by Global Connections

If you no longer want to receive these letters, you can [unsubscribe](#) at any time