



October

We're trying in the midst of fall now, aren't we? We're so excited for the dinner event in a couple weeks. Don't miss your chance to grab tickets! We've also got our membership meeting coming up are still looking for a few committed members to fill out our volunteer team.

November 7th Cultural Event!

Join Global Connections for a Cultural Meal from Türkiye!



Nov. 7 at 6PM
\$15 for Members & \$20 for Non-Members
State College Friends Meeting House
611 E. Prospect Ave. State College, PA 16801

 

Questions? Email gc@gc-cc.org

November 7, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM
State College Friends Meeting House
\$15 Tickets for Members
\$20 Tickets for Non-members

Visit the RSVP link to see the full menu!

[Click Here to View Menu & 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

November 12, 2026

Time: 7:00PM

We encourage all who are able to attend this yearly meeting and take part in shaping Global Connections for the next year.

We will be voting on the following positions:

Alexander Persiko for Secretary (Incumbent)
Rose Sharp for Public Relations (Incumbent)
No Current Candidate for Vice President

[Click Here for More Information & to RSVP](#)

Seeking Volunteer for Leadership Team

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.

Leadership Spotlight

If you're following us on Facebook or Instagram, you've likely seen our recent series about our executive team. Today, we're sharing our spotlight on Alexandra Persiko which hasn't been posted on our social pages yet.



Alexandra was drawn to the organization by its global, cross-cultural spirit and the opportunity to experience it right here in the local community.

Having grown up in a bi-cultural household, Alexandra has always valued communication across cultures. For her, volunteering is about giving selflessly while gaining meaningful experiences, connections, and a greater understanding of others. She especially enjoys being part of something larger than herself and capturing all that Global Connections accomplishes.

One of Alexandra's favorite memories is a picnic at Lake Perez, followed by a hike filled with delicious food and plenty of laughter. Her advice to anyone considering an executive position is simple: "Go for it!" She says there's nothing quite like seeing people from different cultures and backgrounds come together to share meals, stories, and meaningful connections.

We're so grateful for all of Alexandra's contributions over the last two years. The Secretary position for Global Connections is up for election this year with a majority vote needed for a candidate to move into the position. Alexandra Persiko will stand for reelection as the incumbent and is currently unopposed, but shares the belief that all Global Connections leadership that new members and leadership keep our organization fresh. If you are interested in running for Secretary or any of the other positions up for election, please reach out to gc@gc-cc.org.

Re-Cap September Picnic!

Thank you to everyone who attended the September potluck picnic! This is one of our favorite events to host, and as usual you didn't disappoint. My personal favorite was the cherry bread pudding, but honestly everything was delicious!



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



[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 Cultural 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.

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Our events and programs are open to all students regardless of sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, or any other protected class. Student Affairs is committed to building a community of belonging for all.

Culture Connect

A drop-in group open to all students!
Themes especially relevant to international students.

Fridays 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
September 18 – December 18
Snacks will be provided!

Build Resilience: Learn strategies to manage stress & uncertainty.
Foster Connection: Meet peers & mentors who understand your journey.
Strengthen Wellbeing: Cultivate emotional skills through creative expression.

Register Now!

PennState Student Affairs Counseling and Psychological Services
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"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

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 // RAPHAEL ROGINSKI (POLAND)

October 23, 2026

6:00-8:00 PM

Raphael Rogiński is a Polish guitarist, composer, improviser, and musicologist whose singular approach to the electric guitar draws together jazz, blues, Eastern European folk traditions, minimalism, and experimental music.

[Click Here for More
Information](#)

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