

Dear Alumni,

Your role in enhancing our program and current students' experience in Global Studies is more important than you may think. We, the faculty and staff of the Global Studies program want to stay in touch with you; we want to know and advertise your achievements; and, we are eager to explore further ways in which you can assist current students as they navigate the job market and consider graduate programs.

It is my honor to introduce myself to you as the new Director of the Global Studies Program at UIUC. As a scholar working in transnational and global sociology, I have always felt very strongly about building a future for Global Studies at the University of Illinois. I have served on the Global Studies Faculty Advisory Committee on and off for more than ten years (when it was still called International Studies). My own work has focused on environmental and food problems as they are impacted by globalization, with a primary focus on Eastern Europe and the European Union. I have enjoyed teaching many global studies majors in my courses, and have found them to be the most engaged, best-informed and most ambitious students of all. This excellence is well reflected in the many amazing research projects that Global Studies majors undertake.

Under Director Tom Bassett's leadership Global Studies steadily enhanced the programmatic richness of our course offerings and simultaneously provided our majors with a thematically more streamlined curriculum. We now offer certificates in Global Health, International Development, and a minor in Global Markets and Society. In the next few years we will launch certificates in sustainability and human rights. By stepping up the preparation of our students for their careers and intensifying our outreach and recruitment we increased the appeal of our program. As a result, the number of our majors has been on the rise again: today we have 220 declared majors. At a time when most other Liberal Arts units who have their own faculty experience a reduction in their numbers, this achievement bodes very well for our future. With only four full-time teaching staff and no tenure-track faculty, we are the indeed the little unit that could. However, in order for us to sustain our success and ability to survive on a shoestring we need your help!

I am always open to your suggestions about how you and I can stay engaged. What type of information would you like to hear about our program? What alumni events do you envision? What are the different forms of contributions you can offer to Global Studies and our students? What experience or wisdom would you like to share with our majors that you wish you had had when you were studying here?

Also, we ask that when you consider donating to your Alma Mater, you consider donating to our program specifically. We need financial support for students' study abroad—which, as you know, is a requirement for our majors, for enhancing student research, and for enabling a more robust recruitment and outreach in the future.

Please think of Global Studies as your extended family, as your community that comes first to your mind as you contemplate the questions: How can I help others? How can I give back? How to pay it forward?