

# Celebrating Three Decades of International & Global Studies:

*Advancing Interdisciplinary and  
Intercultural Excellence*

TUESDAY,  
APRIL 21, 2026  
4 P.M.  
LINDNER HALL  
FRONT PATIO

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Dr. Andrea A. Sinn  
*Associate Professor of History and Director  
of Elon's International and Global Studies Program*

## REMARKS

Dr. Connie Ledoux Book  
*President of Elon University*

Dr. Hilton Kelly  
*Dean of Elon College, the College of Arts  
and Science and Professor of Sociology*

## REFLECTIONS

Nancy Mueller '27  
*Introduced by Dr. Shereen Elgamal,  
Assistant Teaching Professor of Arabic*

Emily Ecker '26  
*Introduced by Dr. Mussa Idris,  
Associate Professor of Anthropology*



**ELON** | International &  
Global Studies

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## *Advancing Interdisciplinary and Intercultural Excellence*

International & Global Studies at Elon began in 1993 with a vision shaped by Dr. Brian Digre (History and Geography), who secured a Department of Education grant to launch the university's first interdisciplinary major. Established in 1995–1996 as International Studies, the program and its Africa regional concentration quickly grew with additional regional strengths in Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. By 2005, immersive global learning became central, with study abroad, advanced language study, and a rigorous Senior Seminar required of all majors.

Under the leadership of Dr. Safia Swimelar (Political Science and Public Policy) from 2014 to 2023, the program

underwent a major transformation in 2015–2016, becoming International & Global Studies, with a revised mission, new interdisciplinary themes, and enhanced language expectations. The introduction of IGS 250 International Studies: Approaches and Perspectives further strengthened the curriculum by providing a shared foundation for all majors.

Despite the disruption of COVID-19 in 2020, the program remained resilient and committed to global engagement. Today, under the leadership of Dr. Andrea Sinn (History and Geography), International & Global Studies continues to grow and evolve, preparing students to navigate and shape an interconnected world.



**1,892 global experiences.**  
**1,539 graduates.**  
**955 research hours.**  
**One powerful program.**



International & Global Studies at Elon combines immersive study abroad, interdisciplinary learning, and hands-on research to prepare students for a globally connected world. Explore the IGS major and minor and discover the global reach of the program through transformative study abroad experiences.