



A bi-weekly electronic news source
of the College of Arts and Sciences

[Announcements](#)
[Awards & Kudos](#)
[Events](#)
[Research & Grants](#)

**July 19,
2004**

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[Profiles Newsletter](#)

[E-files Schedule](#)

[Talk to Us!](#)

[U of M Event Calendar](#)

[Past Issues of E-files](#)



SPECIAL NEWS

Foreign cultures and global issues addressed at GSIS

The University of Memphis hosted the Governor's School in International Studies (GSIS) from June 13-July 9th. GSIS is a four-week residential program that brings in 80 of the best high school students throughout the state. The application process is quite competitive, as approximately 275 students competed for the 80 places on the program.

Students face a particularly demanding, though engaging, curriculum. Each student is assigned to one of four "teams" representing different geographic areas (Europe, East Asia, Latin America, and Africa). They receive intensive training in a language germane to their particular region (Russian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Hausa, respectively), and attend daily classes on the cultural and historical issues facing their particular region. Moreover, guest speakers make daily presentations on broader global issues, such as human rights, terrorism, food security, and gender issues.

This year's guest speakers included University of Memphis professors Robert Blanton, Shannon Blanton, Beverly Bond, York Bradshaw, Jane Henrici, Phillip Kolbe, D'Ann Penner and Steve Scanlan. Visiting speakers included U.S. Congressman Marsha Blackburn, Arun Gandhi (grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and director of the Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence) and Dr. William Novick (founder and CEO of the International Children's Heart Foundation). There were also many interesting activities outside of the classroom, including international dinners, dances, scavenger hunts, and field trips. As GSIS director Robert Blanton notes, the program "is a unique immersion experience in foreign cultures and global issues."

GSIS, which has been in existence since 1986, is one of eight governor's school programs in the state of Tennessee, and has been held in Memphis since its inception. The program is run through the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies and directed by Robert Blanton (Director of the International Studies Major). Billie Smith (Assistant Director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Office) is the Assistant Director.

FACULTY NEWS

no submissions

STUDENT NEWS

Graduation Deadline

July 21, 2004, is the last day for undergraduate students to file Intent to Graduate paperwork for December 2004 graduation.

Students must sign up for the Senior Test in Brister 112 and bring the confirmation slip with them to Scates Hall 107 (center entrance) in order to file their Intent to Graduate paperwork.

Students in the College of Arts and Sciences should not wait for the deadline to file their intent but should file as soon as they reach senior status (85 hours). It is recommended that students file at least at the beginning of the semester before the intended semester of graduation.

[Back to Top](#)

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