

Belmont University and AMSIB: International Debate Series

Data

- 50 students
- 20+ countries from Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America
- Timely debates on current global issues
 - Economic Sanctions: A powerful tool for Peace or a Weapon of Oppression?
 - Brexit: A Triumph of Sovereignty or a Costly Mistake?
 - Is AI-Driven Automation Beneficial or Harmful to the Global Economy?
- Spring semester Spring 2023, 2024, 2025



Purpose & Engagement

The purpose of debate is to teach us courage — the courage to speak with conviction, to listen with humility, and to build bridges across differences. The International Debate Series have become a cornerstone of global engagement for students in International Economics and Business courses. Teams including 2 Belmont and 2 AMSIB students debate timely global issues. Through structured debates, live polling, and open discussion, students sharpen their economic reasoning, global awareness, build friendships and practice the art of listening. Debate is not about victory — it is about discovery. We argue not to defeat one another, but to reveal deeper truths together.

Student Quotes

"I learned that I love getting to know people. As much as I love learning new topics, connecting with different people on the other side of the world was a super cool experience."

"I highly recommend this project for other students. It is probably life-changing, especially for others who have not received the opportunity to travel abroad."

Belmont University and Zuyd University: Economics Debate Series

Data

- 50 students
- 18+ countries from Europe, Africa, North and South America
- Timely debates on current global issues-
 - Should AI-generated art, music, and writing be treated as substitutes for human-created products, or are they fundamentally different goods?
 - In today's interconnected supply chains, are tariffs an outdated tool of protectionism, or still an effective way to influence trade balances and industrial growth?
 - Should cities fund public transportation even if it runs at a loss, or let private markets determine availability?
- Fall 2024, 2025

Purpose & Engagement

Economics debates are more than just classroom activities — they're powerful opportunities to apply theory to real-world challenges, engage with current and relevant topics, and hear diverse perspectives that broaden our understanding.

But most importantly, debates spark curiosity and deepen our appreciation for the science of economics. Each time we step into a debate, we're not only strengthening our economic reasoning — we're also building our courage to question, our capacity to listen, and our willingness to grow.

It's in these moments of spirited discussion that learning truly comes alive.



Student Quote

"I entered this debate series with zero expectations since I personally had never experienced anything like this before. In the beginning stages, it took a lot of coordination, flexibility, and humility for my group to meet and work together online. However difficult it was, I loved every second of getting to know my group members nationally and internationally. I am very grateful to have had the unforgettable opportunity to partake in a truly international debate. I hope many other future students receive the same opportunity at least once in their college career."

Belmont University and Zuyd University: Sustainability Research Project

Data

- 40 students
- 18+ countries from Europe, Africa, North and South America
- Fall 2024, 2022



Sustainability Research Project

This fall, students from Belmont and Zuyd are teaming up to explore how small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) navigate the shift toward sustainable production. Through in-depth interviews with business owners across the U.S. and Europe, students are uncovering the real-world factors—financial, cultural, and strategic—that shape sustainability decisions. The project blends academic research with global teamwork, challenging students to analyze policy, business models, and environmental goals across borders. With guidance from faculty mentors and insights from industry leaders, this initiative is more than a class assignment—it's a hands-on journey into the future of responsible business.

Student Quote

“This sustainability research project has been so much more than an assignment — it’s been a journey. It allowed me to connect with peers from around the world and see how we think, act, and dream about building a more sustainable future together. One of the most meaningful parts was stepping outside the classroom and into real conversations — interviewing U.S. and Dutch small businesses about how they approach sustainability. We created our own questions, asked what truly mattered to us, and listened to their stories. Through these conversations, research, and data analysis, I began to understand sustainability not just as a concept, but as a shared responsibility — one that shapes the choices we make today and the future we hope to create tomorrow.”

Belmont University and South Korea:

Purpose

Integrate study abroad into graduate programs by providing immersive learning experiences in South Korea. Students build cross-cultural literacy, expand entrepreneurial mindsets, and connect theory to practice in a global context.



Cross-Cultural Literacy

- Learn from a North Korean defector in the Demilitarized Zone
- Experience local cuisine alongside Korean MBA students
- Engage in K-Pop music and dance with a celebrity choreographer

Entrepreneurial Skills & Mindset

- AI Innovation Challenge – Collaborating with cutting-edge Seoul start-ups and pitching solutions to a panel of judges representing start-ups, venture capital, and innovation hubs.
- Exploring Innovation in Action – Gaining insider perspectives through visits to global leaders like LG, Samsung, and Positive Me.
- Learning from the Best – Engaging directly with Samsung executives and visionary local entrepreneurs shaping the future of technology and business.
- Experiences like this go beyond the classroom — they build global mindsets, spark bold ideas, and prepare our students to lead in a rapidly changing world.

South Korea Graduate Global Immersion Experience

“I have traveled to more than 70 countries, yet my time in Seoul stands apart. In just seven days, I witnessed the power of education to transform hearts, minds, and futures.

I learned alongside MBA students and professors at Sogang University, listened to the courageous story of a North Korean defector, and joined local startups in an AI innovation challenge. I walked through the innovation galleries of Samsung and LG and was deeply moved by a local entrepreneur reshaping how women see themselves and their potential. This journey reminded me that education is not confined to classrooms — it lives in conversations, stories, and shared humanity. It is in these spaces that leaders are born. Leaders who listen deeply, think critically, and act with empathy. Imagine every student having the chance to experience the world this way — to see differently, lead differently, and care differently.” -

Natalie Thibault, PMBA student

Belmont University Global CESIM Simulation:

Data

- 174 students
- 34 countries
- Each Team represents students from all 4 continents 
- 10 Rounds of global business simulation
- May 2023, 2024, 2025

Purpose

The Global CESIM Simulation turns theory into action — challenging students to run global companies, make high-stakes decisions, and navigate real-world economic and geopolitical complexities. It builds the strategic thinking, data-driven decisions, collaboration, global mindset and leadership skills tomorrow's leaders need to thrive. It is a proven way to equip our students not just to understand the world, but to shape it.

Student Quote

Jack Elliott and Spenser Nelson, Belmont students, have finished second among 6-members groups including students from not only different countries, but different continents.

"I think participating in the Global CEISM simulation was a very enriching experience. It was interesting to collaborate with international students and see how they went about solving complex problems in their own, unique ways. The simulation provided me with valuable insights on the cultural differences between the other students and myself that I hadn't been able to experience up to this point in my studies. Interacting with people from diverse backgrounds is important in a business landscape that is becoming increasingly globalized. In conclusion, it underscored the importance of strategic decision-making, effective communication, and collaboration in a competitive business environment." - Jack Elliot, AMBA student

Distinguished Speaker Series

Belmont University & Zuyd University

Data

- 40 students
- 20 plus countries
- 7 leaders representing 7 different industries
 - Amazon
 - Bridgestone
 - Belmont Innovation Lab CARE model and Rwanda project
 - Mapco
 - Olympic Games
 - McKensey Consulting

Where Innovation Meets Research, Real-World Expertise, and Leadership

The Distinguished Speaker Series is an innovative teaching initiative that integrates cutting-edge sustainability research with real-world leadership insights. Each speaker shares their organization's sustainability strategies, presents an in-depth company case study, and reflects on key leadership lessons from their careers. Through these interactive sessions, students actively engage with practitioners, ask critical questions, and build meaningful professional networks. By fusing research, industry expertise, and leadership practice, the Distinguished Speaker Series transforms the classroom into a dynamic environment where knowledge meets application. This approach prepares students to think critically, lead with purpose, and navigate the complexities of a rapidly evolving global landscape.