



## A TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO CAMPUS

*Dr. Divya McMillin, Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Global Engagement and Interim Dean, School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences*

During the summer months, UWT students, faculty, and staff patiently waited for answers to the big question: will we return to campus in the fall and, if so, what will that look like? Now, with almost an entire quarter under our belts, we have made the long awaited return to our offices and classrooms at our beloved UWT.

On September 29th, we were welcomed to campus with a new art installation on the Prairie Line Trail decorating the stairs just under the big "W". We were also welcomed at our annual Convocation event with a message

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from our new Chancellor, Dr. Sheila Edwards Lange, about the importance of community: "...it is by being together in community, by not being afraid to ask for help when we need it, that we are going to make it through this time."

# IIGE NEWSLETTER

December 2021

We have spent the past two months adapting; learning how to best foster a hybrid learning community for IIGE students. Through a mix of in-person and online classes and student engagement events, we are seeing students connecting with their peers and producing high quality coursework and design projects - in all of the IIGE's academic programs.



Stevie Esteban picking up her Global Honors sweatshirt during campus Welcome Days

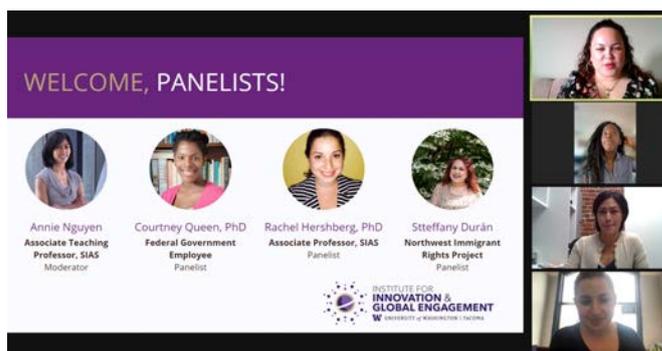
We have welcomed new team members to the IIGE, and new roles for almost all of us. As I took on the role of Interim Dean in the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences while continuing in the role of Associate Vice Chancellor, Dr. Joanne Clarke Dillman began serving as Acting Director of Global Honors. Our search for an Assistant Director brought the best possible result: Krissy Kimura, our former Program Administrator, was hired into this role. At the end of autumn quarter, we are delighted to be able to offer Lan Allison, our former Administrative Specialist, the expanded role of Program Specialist and Academic Advisor.

We welcome four new team members: Dr. Huatong Sun, Associate Director of the Global

Innovation and Design Lab overseeing the Minor; Amy Newcomb, the IIGE's new Community Relations Liaison; Janeil Englestad, Artist in Residence and Instructor; and Autumn Diaz, Global Honors alumna and our new Program Coordinator. You can read more about each of our staff members in the graphic on page three.

The IIGE team has been hard at work to deliver programming that is responsive to student needs and interests while connecting the classroom to local and global communities.

This quarter's student engagement event consisted of a virtual panel of professionals from academia and the nonprofit and public sectors discussing their experiences working in the immigration system and ways for students to get involved. Our community-centered work in the Global Innovation and



"Community Matters: Immigration and Asylum during the Pandemic" panel, December 1, 2021

Design Lab also continued to grow over the summer and fall (see the [October edition of IDEATE](#)) with special recognition at the UW Board of Regents meeting in November (full story on page four).

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This edition of our newsletter is devoted to the triumphs of our IIGE students, alumni, staff, and community members.

We close with a spotlight on IIGE Community Advisory Board (CAB) member, Deneen Grant, and a dedication to longtime IIGE supporter, Iris Schwarz Baiocchi, who passed away in

November. We offer our condolences to Professor Orlando Baiocchi and the entire Baiocchi family.

We wish all our readers a peace-filled holiday season.

-Divya McMillin



## New to the Team

**Dr. Huatong Sun** is the new Associate Director of the Global Innovation and Design Lab. She is an Associate Professor in the School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences.



**Amy Newcomb** is joining the IIGE as our new Community Relations Liaison. Her work experience includes, most previously, the Major Gifts Officer at the Museum of Glass.

**Janeil Engelstad**, founder and Director of Make Art with Purpose, joins the IIGE as our Artist in Residence and Instructor for Global Honors and the minor in Innovation and Design.



**Autumn Diaz** is the IIGE's new Program Coordinator. She is an alumna of UWT and the Global Honors program and a Ph.D. student in the Department of Communication at UW Seattle.

## Staff Updates

### Expanded Roles



**Dr. Divya McMillin** is currently serving as Interim Dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences. She retains her role as Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Global Engagement.

**Dr. Joanne Clarke Dillman** is currently serving as Acting Director of Global Honors. She is an Associate Teaching Professor in the School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences.



**Krissy Kimura** is the new Assistant Director for the Institute for Innovation and Global Engagement. She was previously the Program Administrator for the Global Innovation and Design Lab.

**Lan Allison**, former Administrative Specialist, is the IIGE's new Program Specialist and Academic Advisor. She is an alumna of UWT, former GID Awardee, and M.A. student in HCDE at UW Seattle.





## GLOBAL INNOVATION & DESIGN LAB ALUMNI SHINE AT UW BOARD OF REGENTS

The November 2021 UW Board of Regents Meeting was held at the UW Tacoma campus. Through a special invitation from the Chancellor's Office, IIGE Program Specialist and Academic Advisor, Lan Allison, and Innovation and Design Minor alumna, Faith Kim, spoke to the Regents about their experiences with the [Global Innovation and Design \(GID\) Lab](#).

Both Allison and Kim were recipients of the [Global Innovation and Design \(GID\) Award](#) during their time as UWT students.

Faith Kim (left) and Lan Allison (right) at the UW Board of Regents meeting, UW Tacoma, November 2021

The Regents, who are appointed by Washington's Governor, steer the University's success and "delegate day-to-day administration of the University to the President, in consultation with the faculty" ([UW Board of Regents](#)). For November's agenda, topics such as COVID-19 impact, budget, and academic and student affairs were discussed. The Global Innovation and Design Lab was invited to send representatives to share stories of student success, especially through community engaged learning and inclusive innovation.

Allison spoke about her journey beginning as a newly minted UW Tacoma graduate, unsure of her career path or interests. She found her passion and career focus in user experience (UX) research through the student award opportunity presented through the GID Lab. In 2019, the Lab launched the GID Award to allow students to gain hands-on design thinking experience, and Allison was among the first awardees. She worked for two quarters on design thinking projects for United Way of Pierce County (UWPC) and Pacific Lutheran University, that resulted in pathways to affordable housing and student leadership, respectively. It was because of the award and community connections that she was able to secure a Project Manager position with UWPC right after graduation and lead the Resilience Pierce County Team to co-design equitable solutions to a range of issues in East and South Tacoma communities. The GID Lab is where Allison found her passion for human centered design. She is now pursuing her Master's in Human Centered Design

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Engineering (HCDE) at the UW Seattle campus, from, where she will graduate in the spring. Coming full circle, Allison now works for the IIGE as Academic Advisor and Program Specialist, helping other students expand their learning opportunities.

Kim was a GID Awardee from autumn 2020 through spring 2021. She will graduate in autumn 2021, majoring in Writing Studies: Technical Communications. At the Regents meeting, Kim discussed her experience working as an awardee on the AI chatbot, CocoBot, alongside Dr. Yuwen and other UW students. For three quarters, she worked on co-designing, testing, implementing and expanding new features of CocoBot specifically for UW staff and faculty. Kim worked on projects in the GID Lab for community organizations such as South Sound Together and United Way of Pierce County. Kim was also among the first to complete the new Minor in Innovation and Design

in spring 2020. Through this Minor, a passion for UX research grew and shifted Kim's post-graduate plans. She, too, plans to pursue a Master's in HCDE at the UW Seattle campus and will apply for the 2022 academic year.



November 2021 UW Board of Regents Meeting  
William Philip Hall, UW Tacoma campus

Allison and Kim's speeches emphasized the importance of community connection, student opportunities, and programs that drive student passion. The Global Innovation and Design Lab played a catalytic role in both of their lives and continues to foster that same drive today!

-Lan Allison and Faith Kim

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## SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING IIGE EVENTS

**March 4, 2022**

Shared  
Futures

**Week of May 20, 2022**

Global  
Engagement  
Conference

**May 25, 2022**

Global Honors  
Colloquium

## STUDENT AND ALUMNI STORIES

### **Returning to Campus and Joining Global Honors** By Stevie Esteban, Global Honors Student

Coming back to campus brought a mixture of feelings. It wasn't the usual "butterflies in your stomach" or "itching to get started" anxiety of starting a new school year. With all of the violence, racism, and conflict that happened during the past year, I was honestly scared. It was like someone wrapped my chest in plastic wrap. My body felt stiff and compressed as if I were a fault line about to slip. My mind, as busy as the I-5 during the 5 o'clock rush hour—so many different paths, all leading to one place: home. I never really thought I'd call college home. Yet, the lonesome gray and brick buildings, splattered with a little bit of purple, really felt like I was returning to something familiar and comforting, something similar to a "home." Maybe the familiarity of campus, warm welcome back, and the opportunities that were waiting for me burned my fears away and turned them into fuel for excitement for the quarter. Things started to feel "normal."



*After being online for school for my entire sophomore year, I knew big things were waiting for me back on campus.*

After being online for school for my entire sophomore year, I knew big things were waiting for me back on campus. During the lockdown quarters, I knew that just taking classes for me wasn't enough to get where I wanted to go. So, I applied to the Global Honors program, knowing that they do something more than just teach classes. I want to go to law school and study international human rights law in the future. Previously, I was content with staying within the borders of the United States to practice law. But our world is so interconnected; focusing on a single country's laws is still exciting work, but international law is so fascinating! The influence of different cultures, opinions, and ideologies from almost every country to create modern-day human rights conventions sounds a lot like globalization to me. It felt natural to continue studying international relations through this program as international law is a specific topic. Global Honors, to me, is a step into a future I want to be a part of. I'm grateful for this opportunity to be a part of the cohort and community that's more than just a college.

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## STUDENT AND ALUMNI STORIES

### **The Lasting Influence of a Global Education**

By *Crystal Kennemer, Global Honors Alumna*

My most memorable experience at UWT was studying abroad in Cape Town, South Africa. While in Cape Town, I spent my days at a senior secondary school, where I was afforded the opportunity to shadow, assist, and interview students and teachers. The most important part of this trip was the connections I made. I used the research I gathered in Cape Town as the basis for my Global Honors capstone thesis, examining racial disparities in schools in the U.S. and South Africa. After graduating, I co-authored 'Towards Compassionate Care: A Critical Race Analysis of Teaching in Township Schools' with Dr. Christopher Knaus.



Since 2019, I have been working in community mental health. I started as an Administrative Coordinator at Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare. My colleagues inspired me to get certified as a Peer Counselor. Doing so allowed me to obtain a Peer Case Manager position on the Felony Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FFACT) team. As a member of the FFACT team, I get the opportunity to provide wrap-around services to individuals with severe and persistent mental illnesses, often coupled with co-occurring substance abuse or physical health disorders, who are involved with the criminal justice system. I have found meaning in this work, as I get the opportunity to use my lived experience in recovery to support individuals who are going through similar challenges.

*My experiences studying abroad, and my experiences in the Global Honors program, allowed me to learn about the world and myself.*



At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a global halt to international travel, I decided to start the journey of pursuing a Master's in Social Work at UWT. My experiences studying abroad, and my experiences in the Global Honors program, allowed me to learn about the world and myself. These experiences provided me with skills that translate to working with diverse populations in my career. These are skills that I will continue to develop in both my academic and professional life.

## STUDENT AND ALUMNI STORIES

### Continuing Education & Connecting to My Vietnamese Roots

By Long Trần, Global Honors Alumnus



As a proud alumnus of UW Tacoma, it brings me great pleasure to address the IIGE with updates about my trajectory post-graduation. After earning my undergraduate degree in Communication with minors in Gender and Sexuality Studies and Global Engagement, I pursued a master's in Cinema and Media Studies at UW Seattle. Through this program, I served as a teaching assistant for several undergraduate film courses with topics ranging from science fiction in film to race in television. I also taught the first-ever Vietnamese summer course offered in the history of the institution and published the Vietnamese translation of a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer's poem. Since graduating last summer, I also landed my dream job as a K-12 video production teacher.

*One of the highlights of my time as a graduate student was learning Vietnamese. I was able to enrich my connection with my culture and engage more meaningfully with the cinema, literature, and music of a country I have felt a great distance from since I was a child.*

One of the highlights of my time as a graduate student was learning Vietnamese. I was able to enrich my connection with my culture and engage more meaningfully with the cinema, literature, and music of a country I have felt a great distance from since I was a child. I completed three years of Vietnamese courses within the span of two years and found myself as the English to Vietnamese translator at the Department of Communication's graduation ceremony. I produced an experimental film that won the Best Student Film Award at the UW Southeast Asia x Seattle Film Festival and also won 1st place in the UW Libraries Student Video Contest.

I am currently applying for Ph.D. programs to study Vietnamese popular culture with a focus on films and music through the lens of translation studies. In the interim, I am completing a post-baccalaureate degree in Asian Languages and Cultures while serving as the Program Manager of the Husky 100 program. As a proud, former recipient, I am pleased to return as a student intern and expect to see many Global Honors students applying!



## STUDENT AND ALUMNI STORIES

### **Growing Professionally Through The Pandemic**

By Rebecca Dickson, Global Honors Alumna

I can see the sun slowly departing from the window in front of me. The aroma of my tea hits my face, as the Hamilton soundtrack plays in the background. A group Google Document in front of me, I can see the cursor of my research partner moving, and typing parts of our presentation. Skimming the presentation, I breathe a sigh of relief. Our presentation on our research that we completed through the Bamford Fellowship in Global Engagement was close to complete, and we would be set to depart for the conference in Montana in the morning.



Global Honors is a unique program in that it fosters both independent, innovative thinking from its students and creative, communicative collaboration for class projects. While few could have predicted the current pandemic, the lessons I've learned from my time in Global Honors and through my research fellowship have helped me in my journey as a litigation paralegal.

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As a litigation paralegal, I find myself on the other end of the phone with clients whose lives have been turned upside down due to someone else's action or inaction. While I cannot go back in time and change the situation that caused them to be injured, I can be a part of a team that helps puts the pieces back together.



To do this in a pandemic is an additional, unexpected challenge. However, the lessons of collaboration, networking, and independent, innovative action assist me every day in drafting documents for litigation and communicating effectively. Ultimately, this increases my productivity and helps ensure the best outcome for our clients. The knowledge I developed through Global Honors lays a foundation for my personal and professional success and pride in what I can help achieve for those who are in need.

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD SPOTLIGHT: DENEEN GRANT

By Amy Newcomb, Community Relations Liaison

“Music is my motivation,” says Deneen Grant, one of the IIGE’s Community Advisory Board (CAB) members. As a CAB member, Deneen is committed to helping open UWT classrooms to the world. Deneen is a Tacoma native and business owner who founded Progressive Leadership Group, a consulting firm specializing in executive leadership. Growing up, Deneen was a music student at Pacific Lutheran University with a plan to become a choir teacher and, while pursuing her dream, became a single parent. Soon after, she began a long career in human resources working for a large regional bank (First Interstate, now known as Wells Fargo). Deneen remembers, “I had a leader who saw my potential and helped me grow into senior levels of the company.” Throughout this time, playing and singing at her church remained a priority and a source of joy for Deneen.



Deneen is a leadership strategist who helps organizations crystallize their mission in order to optimize performance and success. “We empower companies to cultivate leadership practices that create work environments where everyone thrives.” The idea behind her strategy is simple: when leaders are effective and aligned with other leaders, they create a place where employees want to be, like a well-harmonized choir. Using a purpose-centered approach, Deneen helps companies understand a culture of high performance, build models to find the right leaders, and measure progress. Her focus on leadership, clarity, and alignment are key elements for a thriving organization.



[Click here](#) to listen to Seattle’s Total Experience Choir on “Christmas in the Northwest, Vol 8”

Pivoting from a traditional music career and becoming an expert in the culture of leadership enabled Deneen to match her interests with a profession. Keeping an eye on the “why” became an important motto for her, and one she shares with students today. Deneen believes being true to yourself is being “why-centric” in identifying your core values. She often asks, “What do you want to create in the world and why?” Knowing your values and motivations and living in accountability and harmony with others by knowing your role, sets the stage for a successful career and happier life.

## REMEMBERING IRIS SCHWARZ BAIOCCHI



The IIGE sends our condolences to longtime Global Honors professor, Dr. Orlando Baiocchi, for the loss of his wife, Iris Schwarz Baiocchi, this November.

(From Iris's *GatheringUs* page) "Iris was a lifelong science educator. She taught at the Brazilian Universities of Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia, as well California State University Chico, University of Missouri Rolla and a number of community colleges. She had a passion for laboratory and teaching. She was a philanthropist, volunteer, and ally to many vital causes, and served

as treasurer of the Tacoma Area Literacy Council. More than anything, Iris loved spending time with her family. "

Iris's family has established a scholarship in honor of her memory for women entering the fields of physics, engineering, visual graphics, sociology, social work or journalism (all fields in which her family and four children work in today).

[Click here to donate to Iris's scholarship fund](#)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

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IIGE Staff with Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards at UWT Convocation, September 29, 2021

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