



Autumn 2018 Newsletter

New Team, Renewed Purpose

We promised exciting updates in our Summer 2018 newsletter and—here we are! We are delighted to welcome two new members to the Institute for Global Engagement: Faculty Coordinator Dr. Joanne Clarke Dillman and Assistant Director Lynn Hermanson. Joanne and Lynn join Program Coordinator Alexis Wheeler and me in scaling up signature features of the IGE.

As described in previous newsletters, we are opening up access to the pathways of the Global Honors Program. Through Integrated Honors, more students will be able to substitute globally focused, major-specific courses for some of the core Global Honors seminars. We are also ramping up the Global Engagement Conference (GEC), which debuted in May 2017, to include area academic institutions. We moved from a small decade-old Honors Colloquium format to the Conference last year with around 70 presentations, open to all UW Tacoma students. The step to include area institutions is one we are excited to take, we hope it will spark further collaborations across the region. Joanne will help lead both Integrated Honors and the GEC.

Lynn brings a wealth of professional experience from her position in the Social Work & Criminal Justice Program, as well as a personal one as a first generation student. She will take honors advising and administration to the next level, fortified by insights gained at the National Collegiate Honors Conference in Boston in early November. Thanks to the ever increasing generosity of our community partners,

we will be opening up even more funded opportunities to all students for global research, study abroad, and conference travel. Read about these initiatives as well as student and faculty experiences, in this newsletter.

Most exciting is the growing momentum in our design thinking approach that infuses the Global Honors Program and the Community Advisory Board (CAB)-supported Directed Research and Student Engagement Programs, resulting in more effective community-engaged projects. The Autumn Faculty and Board retreat on September 22 got us all on our feet, working in teams to build spaghetti towers and appreciate the challenges in collaboration! At the national level, I was invited to conduct a design thinking workshop on *Global Innovation Through Community Engagement* at the 2018 AAC&U Global Engagement and Spaces of Practice Conference in Seattle, October 10-12. CAB Member and VP of HTC Creative Labs Drew Bamford was my co-host. We had a tremendous experience working with around 25 academic leaders from across the nation to rethink how we deliver a service, through the experience of the receiver.



Program Coordinator Alexis Wheeler, Global Honors Faculty Dr. Ben Meiches, and Faculty Coordinator Dr. Joanne Clarke Dillman need extra support for their unstable spaghetti tower.



Academic leaders at the October 2018 AAC&U Global Learning Conference work through a fun design thinking exercise to shake loose from conventional ways of delivering global education.

We feel fortunate to work with our wonderful students who bring their *all* to the classroom and beyond. Our alumni continue to contribute in hefty ways as do our faculty, and we feel the strength of collaboration in the IGE family. Happy holidays and very best wishes for 2019!

— Divya McMillin, Executive Director



An Interdisciplinary Understanding of Healthcare, Human Rights & Culture in Remote Southern Bolivia

On September 1st, after 36 hours of travel, I arrived in remote Tarija, Bolivia, embarking on one of the most impactful, exhilarating experiences of my life. My study abroad program, "Doing More with Less: Healthcare in Remote Southern Bolivia," exposed me to the unique challenges of medical practice in countries with limited resources.

Before the trip, many people asked why I, a double-major in Global Studies and Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE), wished to study medicine in Bolivia. I firmly believe that, in order to develop a basic understanding of others' situations, you need to speak to them directly. This program in particular required me to take an interdisciplinary approach to my studies of human rights - specifically, it asked me to analyze my place in the world and the role of international aid in communities with limited resources and power.

Monday through Friday, I spent time observing doctors in government clinics and hospitals that provide primary care to patients with critical conditions no longer common in the U.S. Per my request, I was honored with the opportunity to observe doctors in rural hospitals, which oftentimes lack the resources needed to treat patients effectively. At every step, I was encouraged to ask questions and think critically. In particular, doctors spoke with me about their perceptions and experiences with international aid. While each doctor shared unique experiences and thoughts, many expressed a common desire to change the way international aid is used. Rather than put the money towards potential pandemics, doctors wanted to study chronic conditions like asthma, to find low-cost, low-resource treatments for their patients.

Understanding any subject fully requires an interdisciplinary approach. This is something the Global Honors program strives to provide—by connecting students from all disciplines, it allows us all to grow in our fields. This study abroad experience, partly funded by the IGE Study Abroad Award, boosted my understanding of the intersections between medicine and human rights.

- Rebecca Dickson, Global Honors & 2018 IGE Study Abroad Award Recipient

Tacoma as a Global City

In autumn quarter, a portion of the new cohort of Global Honors students began their studies with TGH 203, Themes in Global Honors – Global City as Text. The course explores fundamental questions: What is globalization? What are some of the core concepts that help inform a critical understanding of global interaction? How do local and global engagement relate to one another? What is a 'text,' and how can our education transcend traditional classroom and book-based learning? We considered Tacoma as a Global City, applying key theories and frameworks to local phenomena, comparing case studies from around the world to those on our doorstep, and critically analyzing the urban landscape around us with a focus on environmental questions.

As a central feature of the course, the class visited several sites in our community. We began with a trip to the Chinese Reconciliation Park and considered how our local history of migration and exclusion, labor politics and race, entwined with larger patterns nationally and internationally. We toured our campus, viewing it not just as our neighborhood, but also as an urban patch of Tacoma to introduce and explore the 'urban advantage' of cities, including their economies of density, scale, association and extension. Finally, we visited the Center for Urban Waters, located on the Thea Foss Waterway and a site of collaboration between UWT, the City of Tacoma, and the Puget Sound Partnership, which seeks to use scientific knowledge to inform policy development and implementation. We also used documentary film to broaden our perspectives on the environment, sustainability, and the impacts of climate change – *Before the Flood* and *Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock*. It was a challenging and enlightening quarter, as together we explored how globalization is exemplified in our home communities in the Pacific Northwest.

- Dr. Elizabeth Bruch and Lynn Hermanson

A Glance at Rome

This September, I attended an Early Fall study abroad, "When in Rome: Intercultural Business Communication," through the Milgard School of Business. From this experience, one of the most essential things I learned was not about Italy, but about myself.

Initially, I struggled to see myself traveling at all. Being Queer and Trans, a new country adds layers of complexity to how I navigate public space. In the U.S., I can read situations and know where to find resources and support. However, when abroad, I have to acquire a new lens to read culture. For instance, in Italy, eye contact is expected in public, so I had to overcome my immediate sense of threat whenever people stared at me on the street, understanding that they were simply asking for this same communication - eye contact - back.

As I went through the program, I acclimated to the highly interactive public spaces. Walking through Trastevere, I began to recognize our neighbors, including a man who swept outside the police station every morning. As we got more familiar with one another, we would smile and say hello. I found a garden close to the UW Rome Center, where I enjoyed sitting and met a local cat that wanders through the flowers. I drank espresso every morning at the cafe under the apartment building, and I started to notice how I was received differently when walking with other Americans.

Upon returning, I felt the distance and isolation in the U.S. with more intensity. I learned to see myself outside of this context and felt more at home in my body, having been able to explore interactions and others' perceptions of me in a new place. I experienced the narrow roads plastered with street art and the waiters making fun of me for my accent. All in good fun, it is the smaller things about life in a new place that taught me to understand Italy. I have returned with more knowledge that I am myself, regardless of where I am, and there is so much to enjoy about the world, knowing that.

- Frederick Anex-Schnauss, 2018 IGE Study Abroad Award Recipient

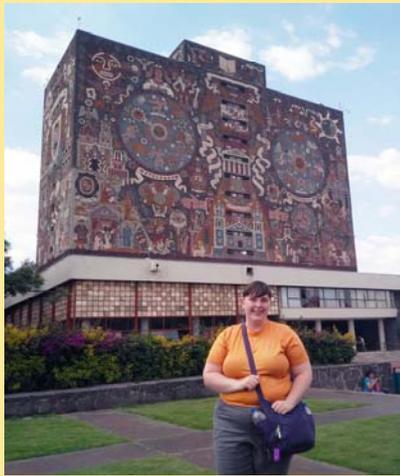


Transformation and Connection in Ciudad de México

On July 18, 2018, I boarded a flight to Mexico City. I had no way of knowing that the month that followed would completely transform how I see myself, Mexico, and the world.

The “CHID Mexico: LGBTQ Communities, Public Health, and Migration” study abroad program was unlike anything I had ever experienced before. We never occupied a traditional classroom, instead going out into the city and visiting LGBTQ+ activist groups in their places of work. We learned more than theory: we learned the real, contemporary issues that LGBTQ+ people face in Mexico and the Americas in general, and about the work that activists in groups like *Almas Cautivas* are doing to make a difference in their communities. We visited the Museum of Tolerance and Memory’s temporary exhibit on LGBTQ+ history and issues, examining some of the most reprehensible crimes ever committed, and the U.S.’s involvement in some of them. Every day was full of learning, forging connections, and building community with truly inspiring people.

This opportunity made me question everything I thought I knew about myself and those closest to me. I reexamined my assumptions, considered my role in the stories I heard, and came away with a richer understanding of my place in the world and how to make change. As a queer person, I got to connect with others like me and see how they live fulfilling lives while being out and proud. I’ve changed my career trajectory as a direct result, and I’m enormously happy with that decision.



I firmly believe that study abroad can and will change the lives of anyone fortunate enough to participate in it. This program granted me connections and perspectives that are going to shape my decisions and interactions with people for the rest of my life, and I’m enormously grateful that I was given the chance to do it. If it weren’t for the IGE Study Abroad Award and other financial aid opportunities, I never would have been able to do it. Access to study abroad is crucial for all students, regardless of major or background. It allows us to contextualize ourselves in the world and exposes us to new ideas and perspectives that could transform the way we see things from then on. To anyone who’s considering study abroad: take the leap. It will change your life.

- Morgan Pasquier, Global Honors & 2018 IGE Study Abroad Award Recipient

Providing Whole Care with Less than Whole Resources

Over the course of four weeks, I had the privilege of participating in rotations at hospitals, public health centers, and private clinics in India’s large, urban city of Mumbai and the rural area of Mt. Abu, Rajasthan. The first week was extremely difficult, as I was required to quickly adapt to a new environment and culture, vastly different from my own. However, I soon came to understand my personal weaknesses and see where I needed to improve. Through this personal reflection and growth, I was able to observe this experience through a new lens.

Within Mumbai in particular, I observed overwhelming demand for medical service, yet some doctors still managed to maintain a personal connection with their patients. Even though the doctors may only have a couple of minutes for each individual, they still strove to maintain a rapport and relationship with patients that extended beyond their medical history.

My experience abroad reinforced the concept that medicine is about the health and well-being of *people*. To be able to help people, you must first know the individuals that are coming to you for help. It is very important to think of patients as more than case numbers, and this is something that often feels like it is forgotten in the American health care system. This mentality of client-centered care is something that I hope I to implement throughout my future career. Through this study abroad experience, I received lessons on personalized health care that I could never learn outside of this program.

- Jocelynn (Jo) Burt, 2018 IGE Study Abroad Award Recipient

ALUMNI CORNER

Ciara O’Connell

UW Tacoma, B.A., 2009
University of Sussex, PhD, 2017

Trinity College Dublin
Postdoctoral Fellow



Before Global Honors, I was the kind of person who wanted to do something big in life, but didn’t know how and certainly didn’t have the confidence to figure it out. I was a transfer student, motivated, but without much direction. Global Honors was the break I needed in my life.

For me, Global Honors was about more than academic rigor, it was, and is, about developing passion, building community, and discovering who you want to be. It was in Global Honors classrooms that I developed my passion for human rights, and it was with Global Honors colleagues that I learned how to put passion into action by engaging in campus activism. The relationships I built through Global Honors, with professors and colleagues alike, helped me to realize myself.

Today I am a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Trinity College Dublin in Ireland. I conduct research on human rights monitoring of prisons in Europe. I’ve also worked on sex workers’ rights while living in South Africa and consulted for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. I completed my PhD on reproductive rights and reparations in the Latin American context in 2017, and have published research in numerous journals and books.

Less than a decade ago, I graduated from UW with a Global Honors distinction on my diploma, and every day I am grateful to the 2009 Global Honors colleagues and professors who helped me be the person I am today.

- Dr. Ciara O’Connell, Global Honors ‘09

Introducing the newest members of the IGE Team!



Mark Your Calendars! Global Engagement Conference May 29-30, 2019

Since 2016, I have been privileged to teach the *Global Imaginations* course in Global Honors with thoughtful, questioning, creative and conscientious students. This year, I am taking on exciting new challenges with a great team of colleagues under the auspices of the Institute for Global Engagement. I will serve as Faculty Coordinator for the Integrated Honors initiative, developing integrated honors options across schools and programs at UWT. I will also facilitate the day-to-day organization of the Global Engagement Conference this year, scheduled for May 29-30 in UW Tacoma's William Philip Hall.

The Global Engagement Conference invites student participation in various formats, including paper, poster, performance, short film, and spoken word art. This year's conference themes include **global innovation and design**: design thinking for community solutions, or community-engaged solutions to global challenges; **environment**: issues related to sustainability practices and resource scarcity; globalism, issues related to refugees, migration, nativist responses, and diasporic identities; **health and human rights**: issues related to indigenous rights and recognition, population health, health issues related to migration and refugee flows; and **media and security**: issues related to transnational media networks, social media and fake news, soft power, and cyber security and/or policing. The link for the Call for Papers will be posted in mid-December to the Global Honors homepage. Titles and abstracts will be due January 15, 2019. We look forward to your submission.

—Joanne Clarke Dillman, Faculty Coordinator & Conference Organizing Committee

Welcome from the IGE Assistant Director

My name is Lynn Hermanson, and I am the new Assistant Director of the Institute for Global Engagement and its Global Honors Program. My work in higher education spans over 13 years in a variety of student and academic services, most recently as Graduate Advisor, Recruiter and Academic Specialist for the UW Tacoma Social Work and Criminal Justice Program. As a first-generation college graduate, I am passionate about student engagement and success and am committed to UW Tacoma's mission as an urban-serving institution.



I am thrilled to be part of the IGE and Global Honors, where the primary interest is helping students develop their full potential, while fostering an interactive, interdisciplinary approach to education that promotes an environment of collaboration, community, and leadership. Thus far, my favorite part of my new role has been meeting and interacting with Global Honors students. Engaged in different disciplines and a diverse set of interests and extra-curricular activities, each of our students is unique, yet they come together to pursue academic excellence and increase their understanding of global awareness, as well as, provide leadership and service to their communities.

In November, I was fortunate to attend the 2018 National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Conference in Boston, MA, and experience my first trip to New England. While exploring the city heralded as "the birthplace of the American Revolution" was exciting, the NCHC conference was a pure delight. The conference was a congregation of over 2100 students, staff, and faculty, who came together to dive deep into honors education and acquire inspiration to start new, or cultivate existing, honors programs. Being new to honors, I took full advantage of the opportunity to learn more about what honors looks like across the country. Over the duration of the conference, I noticed a common thread throughout many of the sessions and discussions – the mental health and well-being of honors students. But wait, students in honors are bright, high-achieving, motivated, ambitious, and hard-working individuals, right? What could they possibly have to worry about?

Through the conference and recent advising sessions, I realize honors students are at risk of experiencing high levels of anxiety. They can have difficulty with imposter syndrome, finding community, and the gravity of excellence, in addition to the demands of work and family. These feelings are genuine, and students should not be afraid to speak with someone about their concerns. There are numerous resources available on campus, including the Student Counseling Center, Student Health Services, and Office of Advocacy and Support. As the Global Honors advisor and champion of student success, I also want students to know I am available for support and as a resource, during their journey through Global Honors and as a student at UW Tacoma. My door is always open, so I encourage students to stop by to say hello or seek assistance for any matter of importance to them.

As autumn quarter comes to an end and we enter the holiday season, be kind to yourself and be sure to take time to relax and rejuvenate! You deserve it!

- Lynn Hermanson, Assistant Director



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