Congratulations to the UWT class of 2013, and especially to the newest members of the Global Honors alumni community (pictured below)! Two years of challenging study and incredible commitment culminated with the completion of impressive capstone theses (coming soon to the UWT Digital Commons, http://digitalcommons.tacoma.uw.edu/global_honors/). These addressed themes ranging from artistic portrayals of common cultural trends, differences in international healthcare, financial crises and reflections on study abroad. They were presented to wide acclaim at the Global Honors Spring Colloquium in June, our hugely successful gathering of UWT students, faculty, staff and community friends.

McMillin especially recognized Holly Bamford, Director of the Bamford Foundation, which has made a generous three-year contribution to the Program to support excellence in undergraduate global research. McMillin noted that Global Honors is an exciting program to be in, with such invaluable community support and strong encouragement from campus leadership for new pathways, including a Minor in Global Engagement.

Commencement is of course a fitting celebration and conclusion, but our students’ activities and achievements weren’t limited to the end of spring quarter. In April we sprang into action and partnered with Citizens for a Healthy Bay and EarthCorps to help celebrate Earth Month with the Global Honors Day of Service. Students, faculty and staff volunteered to cut and grub invasive plant species along the Yowkwala Restoration site near Dash Point. It was tough work, but the crew was rewarded with a hearty meal at Professor McMillin’s house afterwards. Thank you to all our volunteers, we look forward to holding similar service events throughout the coming year. Current GH’er Colin McCann explains why by discussing the importance of active citizenship and local non-profit organizations on page two.

Back in the classroom, our junior (soon to be senior!) cohort spent spring quarter expanding their artistic horizons by considering cross-cultural relationships as portrayed in film with Professor Claudia Gorbman’s Global Imaginations class.

Just as Elaine Gibbons’ Global Interactions in Winter saw our students emerge as budding social entrepreneurs, we’re now confident we have several future documentarians in the mix too! With Professor Orlando Baiocchi of the Institute of Technology lined up to teach Global Challenges, the interdisciplinary journey will take on a new twist when things resume in Autumn.

At that point, we’ll also be welcoming the newest members of the Global Honors Community. We are still accepting applications for 2013-15—find out about Program benefits and how to apply on page four!

Learn how Global Honors’ commitment to community engagement extends beyond the classroom. Check out the reflections of two newly graduated students, and see what awaits those who graduate with Global Honors!

Meet more students, including two of the new GH Student Leadership Council’s representatives. Find out about their plans for summer quarter along with the recent achievements of GH Student Assistant Amy Hudgins.

The experiences of each GH cohort culminates in our Annual Spring Colloquium. Read about this and our subsequent celebrations on page four, then check out how to apply to GH for 2013-15!

What are you waiting for?
Graduation is a time to reflect on the achievements of the past and the opportunities of the future. Here, Latif Bey Davis and Monica Melton, two of the newly graduated Global Honors Class of 2013, discuss their time at UWT and their excitement for what comes next …

I never thought I would be at this point—I have been accepted to graduate school for Social Work at Temple University in Philadelphia and I’m really looking forward to the opportunity. My hometown is Philly so I get to be with family again. I intend to start graduate school in January of 2014 and I’m already making plans to make the move back home. So it’s a very exciting time!

I’ve been pursuing a bachelors for five years, so before continuing with a master’s program I want to take time to travel and enjoy myself. The movers are scheduled to pick up my stuff in late July, but before then I plan on making one more trip to Mexico. I also plan to drive from Washington through Oregon, California, Nevada and Arizona before catching a flight back to Philly.

Once I get there I intend to find an apartment close to Temple campus and get settled in. I have military benefits that will pay for school but in order to get them I have to reapply once I get in town. It’s been 15 years that I’ve lived away from home so the move has been a long time coming. But I’ve really benefited from my time at UWT. I’m glad that I not only get to go back but will take and develop skills that will make me more valuable to my community. I had great experiences with Global Honors and UWT that will definitely help enrich my years ahead in the field of Social Work.

Latif Bey Davis, Ethnic Gender & Labor Studies, Class of 2013

Before considering life after UWT, I cannot help but reflect on the time I’ve spent here. During the snowy winter of 2011, I stepped onto UWT’s familiar campus (I had been a School of the Arts student years before) and felt energized with promise and possibility. These feelings soon faded as I settled into classes on subjects I knew next to nothing about. It was then that I began to question what I knew and what I was good at. I had already partially figured this out, but I fleshed it out by studying abroad in Brazil, majoring in Communications, and effectively taking on a double-minor with Hispanic studies and Global Honors. My hands were certainly full. But the Program complemented the globally minded skill set I already possessed, and the bachelor’s degree would surely help me achieve my future goals.

This brings me to the present, preparing for life after UWT. For me this consists of pursuing a master’s degree in poetry writing from Columbia University or New York University, as both have selected me to be on the waiting list for admissions. Just as I felt two years ago starting at UWT, I feel poised and prepared for the promise and possibility that comes next. Global Honors undoubtedly helped!

Here I spent the formative years of my undergrad education by seeing different parts of the world, learning through new lenses in Global Honors, and publishing my poetry in Tahoma West. In addition to the quality of my poetry, I highly suspect the Global Honors distinction helped my prospective grad schools notice me. The Program really is what made my undergraduate experience all that much better for the community and excellence it offers.

Monica Melton, Communications, Class of 2013

As an academic honors program, Global Honors pushes us to consider the meaning of responsible citizenship. But this isn’t limited to in-class discussion, as illustrated by our Day of Service at the beginning of Spring quarter. On this particular cold and rainy Saturday morning, a dozen of our faculty, staff, students and their partners (pictured with other volunteers, right) collaborated with Citizens for a Healthy Bay (CHB, www.healthybay.org) and EarthCorps (www.earthcorps.org) to remove non-native, invasive plant species from Yowkwala Beach on Commencement Bay. This event gave us a chance to celebrate Earth Month and proved an excellent learning experience.

CHB is an environmental nonprofit based in Tacoma that works to represent and engage citizens in the cleanup, restoration, and protection of Commencement Bay. Founded in 1990, CHB provides excellent environmental leadership to the South Sound community.

EarthCorps, who assisted in organizing and staffing the event, is another nonprofit based in Seattle. Their mission is to build a global community of leaders through local environmental service. Founded in 1993, EarthCorps provides intensive programs for young adults from the United States and 80 other countries to learn best practices in community-based environmental restoration. They supervise more than 10,000 volunteers each year.

Thanks to these locally based nonprofit organizations, the Global Honors community learned a great deal about the importance of environmental advocacy and involvement. Spending a cold April morning digging out invasive plant species may not sound like a fun scenario, but looking at the smiles on everyone’s faces during the day certainly suggested otherwise. Environmental advocacy is not a part-time job for CHB and EarthCorps, and their passion for their work is apparent. The Global Honors community has been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with and learn from these wonderful organizations.

Colin McCann, Politics Philosophy & Economics
Internships and Study Abroad are not compulsory for Global Honors, but we strongly encourage our students to consider both. They often inform our seniors’ capstone theses, and can certainly enhance professional and cultural competencies. Here, Megan Nation discusses the amazing experiential opportunities she’s lined up for the coming months.

This summer will be unlike any other. I have been awarded the amazing Gold Internship in Washington, D.C. for two months. I will be interning at the Child Art Foundation and going to school several days a week at George Mason. I will be free on the weekends to explore all the amazing things D.C. has to offer. I also plan to visit some graduate schools to look for somewhere to earn my master’s degree in International Relations after graduating from UWT.

After returning from D.C., I will be home for three weeks and plan to get involved with service and social activities with my Global Honors classmates (see below). But I’ll then leave for São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro for a month. In Brazil, I will be researching business along with social and environmental responsibility. The group I will travel with is entirely comprised of UW students and professors. We will also have 300 hours of Portuguese instruction along with five credits for independent research. Brazil is at an interesting point economically and environmentally so it will be intriguing to see how the government, businesses and people are handling the changes accompanied by growth.

These opportunities would not be on my schedule if it were not for the Global Honors and PP&E Interdisciplinary Programs. I hope to apply the knowledge and experience I gain to the discussions and research I will undergo next year. Thank you to everyone who has helped me get to where I am and where I am going!

Megan Nation, Politics Philosophy & Economics

Spring Quarter has been full of exciting opportunities and events, and one of the highlights was the 16th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium at UW Seattle. I was fortunate enough to be selected to present my Global Honors thesis at the Symposium, along with fellow Global Honors senior Margarett Lundberg, and our friend Kylie from the Teaching and Learning Center. The Symposium was by far one of the best experiences of the year, second only to the Global Honors Colloquium and graduation of course (see page four!)

The days leading up to the Symposium were jam-packed, and I was a bundle of nerves. It was held the day immediately following the Colloquium, but each event had different time limits for presentations. This meant I had written two separate presentations for the same thesis, and hadn’t had as much time to practice. By the time the three of us parked the car under Red Square on the Seattle campus, my nerves were getting the best of me, and I began to think that maybe I had bitten off more than I could chew.

Mary Gates Hall was a sea of students, all dressed in business attire, and the programs given to us at check-in featured students from honors programs throughout Puget Sound, as well as McNair scholars and winners of impressive research grants. I felt out of my league. I tried everything I knew to keep my nerves in check, from tips I learned in office hours, brain-twisting theory, and at UWT will serve me outside of our campus community. Most of all, I can’t keep from thinking to myself, I did it!

Amy Hudgins, Arts, Media & Culture / American Studies

Can I Do This?!

This is a question everyone asks sometimes. In a challenging new environment, it’s easy to think others are better qualified, especially when surrounded by outspoken honors students! The simple option might be turning down the challenge, but stepping up does pay off. You’re probably a lot better prepared than you realize. This is true for opportunities throughout UWT, including Global Honors. So check out the website and consider applying at: http://www.tacomauw.edu/globalhonors! We welcome all inquiries at gghonors@uw.edu.
The run-up to our Annual Colloquium is a formative time for Program seniors. Our two-year curriculum equips them with a broad overview of global themes, as understood from different academic and cultural perspectives. They also receive substantial research and writing guidance, especially from their Faculty Advisors (see below). While this support keeps students on track, these scholarly explorations also involve intense individual effort.

All that hard work paid off at the Global Honors Spring Colloquium in May. With guests from programs across campus in attendance, Margaret Lundberg was the first to present her research, an account of the evolution of the Cinderella story from a Chinese folk tale to a Mexican telenovela. Transnational literary expressions were also addressed in Amy Hudgin’s study of the poetry of Sarah Platt, and Nicholas Witters followed with a fascinating philosophical reflection of his deployment in Iraq. The morning session finished with Maria Kimerle’s discussion of how field work in Italy had informed her study of different cultural attitudes towards elderly care-giving.

Having delivered their presentations, students were then tested by our respondent panel, a new feature that helped foster even deeper scholarly discourse (pictured right). Chaired by Global Interactions Lecturer Elaine Gibbons, this panel included Global Honors Alumnus Christopher Thomas (class of 2010) and two of our juniors, Megan Nation and Noelle Gichohi. These panelists brought their own perspectives to bear in a way that enabled our presenters to expound on their theses with enthusiastic authority.

After tasty Thai and Vietnamese refreshments, the Colloquium resumed for afternoon presentations. Monica Melton analyzed representations of the African Diaspora in film, and Latif Bey Davis shared the benefits of study abroad by discussing his travels in Kenya. Percy Strowhorn III explored the cultural nuances of romantic interactions in Japan and the United States, and Sonor Lusvandorj concluded with his interpretation of the Chinese housing bubble crisis. After our presenters were put to the test once more by the panel’s Q&A, the event closed with a reception in which cheerful conversation focused on a shared sense of successful completion.

It’s hard to think of a better example of interdisciplinary inquiry than the fascinating range of topics presented at the 2013 Colloquium. Just as importantly, it was a fitting confirmation of all our students’ incredible work. It only remained to formally commend them at the Global Honors Graduation Reception and UWT Commencement in June (pictured below). But even prior to their graduation with the Global Honors distinction, it had long been clear that the class of 2013 was made up of outstanding individuals.

Left to right: Program Administrator Paul Carrington, Margaret Lundberg, Amy Hudgins, Percy Strowhorn III, Monica Melton, Latif Bey Davis and Monte Martin. Not pictured, Maria Kimerle and Nicholas Witters.

How to Apply

We are now accepting applications for the 2013-15 cohort. We welcome submissions from students ...

... of any major with a GPA of 3.5, ... about to begin their junior year (or sophomore year if they rock!), ... with a demonstrated interest in global themes, ... and with the potential to make a significant contribution.

Benefits include:

- Global Scholar Award for all participants, up to $1500
- Flexible pathways that can complement and enhance all majors
- Engaging seminar-style courses
- Development of academic and professional competencies
- Social and service activities
- Honors distinction at graduation

Questions? Please contact us at: ghonors@uw.edu
Information and Applications: http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/global-honors

Thank You...

...to the generous support of our UW Tacoma friends and partners, especially those (right) whose financial support made such a difference to our Spring Colloquium and Graduation Reception.

We are also indebted to our community sponsors for their in-kind donations and delicious refreshments. Check them out on Pacific Avenue!

Thank you to Global Honors Student Assistant Amy Hudgins for helping arrange our spring quarter events and for contributing to the composition and compilation of this newsletter.