A GLOBALLY ENGAGED CAMPUS
- Divya McMillin, Executive Director

A crisp beautiful October morning in Denver; Paul and I were setting up our workshop at the 2016 Association for American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Global Learning Conference. We took pictures of ourselves at the podium in an empty room, chuckling that perhaps this was as good as it was going to get. Our session was up against several exciting panels that placed at the forefront, as we do, “global” as an essential framework for college learning. Within minutes, however, the room filled with faculty and leadership from around the country wanting proven strategies to make global learning accessible. Our workshop was ambitiously titled, “Extraordinary Learning: Strategies for Developing Accessible, High-Impact Global Engagement in Urban Serving Universities.” So we pitched bold. We asked participants to imagine the ideal global campus, where barriers were nonexistent. The discussion was exhilarating. We talked about how to create class content and practical experiences that were grounded in the real world. Our community-engaged model that creatively tackles resource and structural barriers sparked a rigorous all-room conversation. The solution-focused point of entry was pivotal. The mood was upbeat and people left muttering things like “best workshop” and “can I buy you a drink?”

This is exactly the approach in the Institute for Global Engagement (IGE) that makes the best practices of the Global Honors Program accessible to all UW Tacoma students. Our motivation goes beyond offers for drinks, of course; we owe it to our shared futures to promote a globally-engaged campus, where the “global” is studied not just as an academic concept, but as a framework that is critical to our success in the long run. Our students are challenged from the very first day, to think of themselves as transformative, innovative, flexible, and fast-moving. We emphasize working collaboratively, which means understanding context, respecting differences, and getting comfortable with the unfamiliar. The 2017 Global Honors Colloquium demonstrates such learning in practice and puts us at the forefront of only a handful of globally-focused honors programs in the country. We are exactly on the right track.

“Global’ is more invoked than ensured as a framing theme for college student learning,” writes AAC&U President Carol Geary Schneider in a 2015 essay titled, Flying Blind into America’s Global Headwinds? The terms “global” and “international” are often confused and conflated. To simplify, “global” addresses the interdependencies and interconnectedness of our communities and experiences such as access to healthcare, clean water, technology, employment, and safe neighborhoods, for example. At UWT, helping make real these interdependencies are our highly invested Community Advisory Board and events such as the Global Classroom interactive speaker series, which the IGE

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Global Honors at the 2017 Western Regional Honors Council Conference

Every spring hundreds of honors students and faculty from all around the western United States converge on one college campus for the Western Regional Honors Council’s (WRHC) Conference. This event acts as a forum for students and faculty to share their research and experiences from their honors programs and universities. The conference is an excellent networking opportunity as well as a fully funded trip for UWT Global Honors students, thanks to the Bamford Foundation’s generosity.

This year the conference was hosted by the Honors College of Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon. Ashland is a quaint town best known for its Shakespeare festivals and its rare lithia water wells. The rolling green foothills surrounding the town are picturesque and provided the perfect backdrop for a very successful conference.

At the conference, Global Honors Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PP&E) major Jingyi Zhang presented on the Chinese housing bubble and was excited to share his research.

Jingyi said, “I improved my leadership and communication skills. [The conference] provided me with an opportunity to introduce Chinese culture and the economy through presenting on China’s housing bubble. I really appreciate that Global Honors provided me an opportunity to represent UW Tacoma at the conference.”

The highlights of my experience at the Western Regional Honors Conference include strengthening the connections I have with classmates and faculty of the Global Honors Program and Institute for Global Engagement, and being given the opportunity to present my undergraduate capstone thesis research in a supportive environment. I feel like I conquered an important step in my goal for self-growth. I am grateful for being given the chance of a lifetime to present my research at the WRHC Conference.

- Heather Swanson Sow ‘17

Sustainable Urban Development major Ashley Richards and Psychology major Emily Clouse were also poster presenters at the conference. Their research promoted education of global issues with local manifestations. Ashley presented methods city planners can use to balance urban population growth and land use, and Emily discussed her research on systemic racism. Emily ended up taking second place in the Humanities poster category.

“This was my first academic conference where I was able to experience presenting my own research” Emily said. “After UWT, I aspire to go to graduate school for a Ph.D in social or developmental psychology, so events like WRHC are at the center of what I am most passionate about: learning with others in a collaborative environment. I hope to present at many more conferences like this, and WRHC 2017 gave me a glimpse of what is to come.”

Next year the conference will be held April 13 -15 at Chapman University in Orange, California. These conferences are not only an excellent and often funded way to engage with other honors students and faculty who share similar passions, they are also a way to explore the beautiful western United States!

- Wesley Rainey, Class of ’18

Heather Swanson Sow (left) with presentation partner Haley Anderson

Jingyi Zhang discusses the Chinese housing bubble, WRHC ‘17

Experiencing Diversity in Rome
Experiencing Diversity in Rome

As a student on the Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity (OMAD) Classics Rome Academic Enrichment Program, Josephine Green glimpsed how Rome’s past serves as a vital lens to view today’s salient global issues. Here is what she saw.

Rome was amazing and easily the most beautiful city I’ve laid eyes on. It’s hard to put into words exactly what it means to be abroad. As nervous as I was to leave, I didn’t imagine how much it would impact my daily life. Every day was exciting and filled with exploration. On my favorite days we visited the Vatican City and saw the Pope, watched the President deliver a wreath on Italy’s Independence Day and explored everything from the Colosseum to the Trevi Fountain. It’s really astonishing how much we were able to cover in such a short time, it felt like we saw it all! The more I learned about Rome and the culture, and history behind all of their beautiful architecture the more I fell in love.

I think my favorite part about being in Rome was meeting some of its residents. It wasn’t until a night out getting pizza and gelato with my friends Iman and Jerusalem that I had my lightbulb go off. As we watched life in Rome happen before our eyes, it dawned on me for the first time that there were people of all races and cultures living in Italy. I remember having a conversation with a fellow traveler who said he loved being in Rome rather than his home country because of the diversity, as

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jointly hosts with the World Affairs Council of Tacoma and the Politics, Philosophy and Public Affairs Division of UWT’s School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. Topics such as The Political Crisis in Turkey, Global Health and the South Sound, and President’s Trump’s Immigration Ban were discussed by distinguished panelists who delivered powerful examples of how we are all affected by political events and crises. As other essays in the pivotal Summer 2015 AAC&U journal elaborate, the “international” lens is important and on the spectrum of global learning, but the point of entry is national, with comparative analyses of national systems. “Internationalization” of universities, which includes study abroad, faculty and student exchanges, and the increase of international students, should not be seen as an end in and of itself, but as a means to rigorous global learning for all. Here at UWT, we deliberately use “global” to mean inclusive and far-reaching pedagogy and administrative practice.

We are excited to move these efforts in global engagement more deeply into majors across campus. With the charge in June 2016 to extend the Global Honors structure to major-integrated honors pathways, we have worked year-long with the inspiring Honors Executive Committee featured in the last IGE newsletter to design a simple and efficient honors scaffolding for academic units. Our meetings were filled with intense work, irreverent humor, cupcakes and coffee, and culminated in rigorous review by the representative Global Honors Faculty Council. We will begin 2017-18 with a master presentation to academic Deans and Directors, after which we will roll out workshops in honors development for the campus.

We tested this next-level model against our regional peers. In April 2017, we conducted another well-attended workshop on “Community-Engaged Research as High-Impact Honors Practice” at the Western Regional Honors Council Conference in Ashland, Oregon. Feedback once again was in the “best workshop” league, with people recognizing “that cool Global Honors Program” just by the name of our campus. No offer of drinks this time, but we managed to scrounge up some change to treat ourselves to one, maybe two. Our proudest moments were watching six of our students present their globally-relevant research at poster and panel sessions, with one placing second at the conference overall.

We embrace all the adventures ahead in promoting global engagement on our campus and into our community. In our focus on collaborative solutions, we are scaling up hope that is so critical for us to imagine a shared future.
Global Classroom: Connecting our Region to the World  

By Alexis Wheeler

In partnership with the World Affairs Council Tacoma and UW’s Division of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs, the Institute for Global Engagement (IGE) presents Global Classroom, an interactive speaker series on global issues of local relevance. Launched in 2015, the quarterly series has explored such pressing matters as the Chinese president’s visit to Tacoma, the political crisis in Turkey, the constitutionality of Trump’s travel ban, and the local implications of global health challenges (February 2017).

Sitting down with Washington Health Secretary John Weisman, Assistant Secretary Janna Bardi and UWT Assistant Professor David Reyes for a discussion moderated by Institute for Global Engagement Community Advisory Board member Dr. Enrique Leon, the campus and wider community delved into “Global Health and the South Sound,” as the panel presented case studies from around the world that posed solutions to local health care challenges. After an hour of panel discussion and individual presentations, the public had its chance to weigh in when the panel invited questions from the audience.

This vital discussion drew around 100 people from campus and community. Global Honors student Herbert Collins said he was especially excited to hear from Dr. Reyes (UWT Nursing & Healthcare Leadership) that local residents are organizing community meetings to take action for the health of the citizens on the East side. “It’s important that we recognize and address these health disparities in our local community, as well as larger disparities at a global level,” said Collins. By bringing these issues to public awareness, the Global Classroom series is helping lead the way toward understanding and, hopefully, solutions.

To learn more about the next Global Classroom and other talks on timely topics, visit: www.tacoma.uw.edu/ige/community-engagement.

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