



Spring/Summer 2018 Newsletter

2017-18 NCHC
Award Winning
Newsletter!



An Inclusive Framework for Global Engagement

“Imagine a Solution” was the theme of our first Global Engagement Conference on May 21, 2018, featuring over 70 student and faculty presentations. “Innovative Solutions for a Sustainable World,” “Assessing Barriers to Rights, Freedom and Leadership,” and “Youth Rights, Social Justice and Activism” were just some of the contextually rich panels that showcased innovative solutions to global challenges. Sessions ran concurrently in two venues, with over 250 campus and community members attending throughout the day.



Professor and IGE/GH Executive Director Divya McMillin with keynote speaker UW Vice President for Innovation Strategy Vikram Jandhyala at the inaugural UW Tacoma Global Engagement Conference on May 21, 2018.

“Not everything new is innovation,” said keynote speaker Vikram Jandhyala, UW Vice President for Innovation Strategy, Executive Director of CoMotion and co-CEO of Global Innovation Exchange (GIX). The scale of impact in economic and social spheres is its true measure. Jandhyala described CoMotion’s mission to help innovators enhance impact, and the GIX’s global industry and elite academic institutional partnerships that facilitate both innovation and impact. Afternoon keynote speaker Dr. Enrique Leon, MultiCare Physician, shared his work in Peru, where new ultrasound imaging using digital-chip rather than crystal probes, brought quick interventions to scores of patients enduring chronic pain. At the Institute for Global Engagement, we emphasize sustainability with every solution proposed—this demands deep knowledge of communities and systems, as well as commitment to collaboration.

The articles in this newsletter from faculty and students reveal the complexities and joys of global research and collaboration. As

with our conference, the imperative of mindfulness has emerged with greater urgency at recent national and international honors and global engagement conferences. “Just Honors” and “Courageous Transgressions” were themes at the 2017 and 2018 National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Conferences. Our active participation keeps us learning and also leading in the conversations on innovation and global engagement. In October 2018, we will showcase our community engaged model through a workshop at the Association for American Colleges and Universities “Global Engagement and Spaces of Practice” conference. IGE campus events throughout the year highlighted these themes as well.

The April 23 Leadership Luncheon, which we co-hosted with UW Tacoma’s Veteran and Military Resource Center, featured a riveting dialogue on leadership among Joint Base Lewis-McChord Garrison (JBLM) Commander Colonel Nicole Lucas, President and CEO for United Way of Pierce County Dona Ponopinto, and Boeing Senior Vice President of Supply Chain and Operations Jenette Ramos. Ms. Ramos particularly noted the need for our graduates to have working global knowledge especially of interdependent systems that transcend national boundaries. Ms. Ponopinto discussed the value of teamwork, and Colonel Lucas emphasized a culture of collaboration.

This was a perfect follow up to our February 16 *Shared Futures* networking social, where panelists HTC Vice President Drew Bamford, Progressive Leadership Group Strategist Deneen Grant, and Dr. Enrique Leon, led a highly interactive discussion on “Cross-training



Boeing SVP Jenette Ramos, United Way of Pierce County President & CEO Dona Ponopinto, and JBLM Garrison Commander Colonel Nicole Lucas address South Sound community leaders, including 25 Global Honors students, at the UW Tacoma Leadership Luncheon, moderated by Dr. Divya McMillin, on April 23, 2018.

Intersections of Sexual Assault, Culture, & Policy

I came to UW Tacoma with an interest in women's rights and policy, especially within Brazil. I knew Brazil had implemented innovative and pioneering laws to help curb violence against women. In Brazil, a woman is raped every eleven seconds and killed every two hours. The government has created specialized women's police stations, meant only to respond to violent crimes against women, as well as specialized court systems and women's councils that help shape laws at the city, state, and national level.

Initially, I came to UWT thinking that study abroad was just not for me. Too many unknowns, such as, how would I fund it? How would it fit into my major? Luckily, all of the moving parts came together with the help of the Institute for Global Engagement (IGE) and the Office of Global Affairs (OGA) staff. My study abroad experience in Brazil was fully funded through the Gilman International Scholarship, the OGA Scholarship, and the IGE Bamford Fellowship in Global Engagement (BFGE). Through the Bamford Foundation-funded BFGE, I was able to expand my study abroad experience into an international research project. This became my capstone thesis, examining the intersections of sexual assault, culture and policy within Brazil and the United States by pairing my project with the study abroad program, "Brazil: Movements and Intersections." This year-long project culminated in an oral presentation delivered at the Global Engagement Conference in May.

While in Brazil I found time to interview an officer at a local women's police station, as well as collect data from 250 university student survey participants in Sao Paulo and Mato Grosso do Sul. We also attended the taping of a popular late-night TV show "Altas Horas," where we met Maria de Penha, the woman responsible for creating laws to protect women from domestic violence. Studying abroad has refined me culturally, academically, emotionally, and has given me the tools to see the world in a more critical way.



- Natalie Lawrence

Transformative Policy for Cape Town and Tacoma

Looking back to our first quarter in the Global Honors program, we never imagined then that this would be where we'd end up. The road from where we were a year ago to where we are now has been full of surprises, challenges, and memories that we will never forget. Participating in the Bamford Fellowship in Global Engagement has been an incredible experience for the two of us, and the opportunity to work with Dr. Cohen has been very helpful as we continue to ask research questions and develop our theses.

Together, we studied abroad in Cape Town, South Africa, where we volunteered with Non Government Organizations (NGOs) in a local township. We conducted the first phase of our research there, to explore the role that education-based NGOs played in the lives of youth of color. We were able to meet with NGO leadership, as well as participate in site visits to schools and afterschool programs. Now, we are focusing on local efforts of NGOs, schools, and afterschool programs to provide for students of color. In particular, we are examining barriers that youth of color in our communities face,



by conducting interviews with officials who work alongside these youth. Through our research and fieldwork, we were able to draw connections between patterns of discrimination and racism in South Africa and the United States.

Through these comparisons, we were able to demonstrate the cycle of racism which many youth of color are born into and endure throughout their lives. From these observations, we were able to make recommendations for policy change.

- Ashley Richards & Nicole Carbone

Student Leadership Council Report

Booming noise fills the colorful Global Honors lounge as students excitedly discuss their extracurricular activities. Complex plans for internships and careers are discussed over tea and coffee before classes start. Students meet with classmates to go over outlines for final essays. Fueled by coffee, creativity, and an inherent determination to succeed, members of the Global Honors community aim high in all aspects of their lives. The Student Leadership Council (SLC) serves as a channeling body for this powerful force, with the goal of making a change in local, regional, national, and international contexts.

We are continuously aware of the difficulties our fellow students face on a day-to-day basis. Food insecurity is a common issue among peers, so our first SLC event, titled "Championing Change," targeted the issue of food insecurity. Kicking off a food drive, students within the Global Honors community collected food for the UW Tacoma Food Pantry and local food banks. By working at a local level to address a global problem, students were able to deliver meaningful impact for fellow students.



The second event, titled "Rad Resumes," afforded an opportunity to learn resume basics for graduate school, internships, and careers after college. By pulling in the expertise of Beverly Vari from the Career Development and Education Office, the SLC allowed students to ask questions and learn more about resumes, CVs, and the job search from a campus expert.

Global Honors students often feel the pressure of high-stress final projects, papers, and exams. Because of this, for its final event of the year, the SLC held a pizza party potluck for students to give them a chance to socialize and relax before heading into finals weeks. Instead of bringing items to the potluck, the SLC asked students to bring an item for the food drive, if possible.

In the near future, the SLC aims to continue to target issues such as food insecurity, environmental restoration, and literacy through community service projects. We hope to provide students with more opportunities to socialize and improve their skills in interviewing and resume writing in preparation for the workforce.

- Rebecca Dickson

Movements and Intersections

In my office, I display photos of past study abroad groups to Brazil. The students are all smiling into the camera; some of them are posing with one another against a building or tree along a mural or before a statue. Pictures like these are often used to promote the program to potential students. They look like they are having so much fun! However, these photos don't begin to tell the story of a study abroad experience. If a picture is worth a thousand words, these pictures fall short.

Many students understand that they are studying abroad to learn about the social/political/cultural issues within Brazil. This is certainly true and it is on the syllabus. We spend ample time listening to professors and activists explain their issues and struggles, and we attend on-site visits to observe and discuss these issues with communities. Students are required to do research by interviewing people, observing their surroundings and writing about it. However, the real plan is for students to leave with more questions than when they arrived, to appreciate the complexities and ambiguities of the region and to develop a curiosity about the world.

As we walk off the plane into Brazil, our socially constructed identities become dislodged. Communication becomes difficult, everything is different—the food, schedule, sense of time, as well as race relations and political categories. We are not interpreted or understood as the people we thought we were back in the United States. It can be disorienting. Repositioning ourselves within a global framework is a challenging but ultimately rewarding process within a study abroad program. Many students have decided to continue their explorations. No one looking at the photos below would discern that two of the young women with broad smiles returned to participate as volunteers for the Olympic Games. Another student returned to do field work in Brazil for his Master's program. The young man squinting into the sun received a scholarship to teach English in Brazil the following summer and is currently on a Fulbright graduate scholarship to Brazil, while the young woman in the center of one photo will present her capstone project at a conference in Brazil.

Students make lasting friendships that photos cannot depict. This year, a Brazilian friend will be present to congratulate a graduating UWT student, their relationship cemented by their mutual passion for Brazilian jiu-jitsu and political science. These personal interactions are a form of international relations. They build general goodwill, as well as consolidate institutional commitments. The photos don't explain the institutional and community relationships that we have built over the years and the levels of collaboration and trust which enable students to access communities and people. They don't show how our visits resulted in the subsequent visits of professors and students to the UW Tacoma campus or the combined research project among professors and students. I enjoy looking at the study abroad photos, but the mission of global engagement is not merely to produce momentary smiles. While the abundant selfies mark fleeting moments, the experiences from a study abroad can continue to invite questions and curiosity about the world, bridge communities, develop lasting relationships, construct collaborations and promote understanding about others and ourselves.

Analyzing Global Issues through Global Images

My Spring quarter TGH 302 *Global Imaginations* course examines global image culture. It selects examples from paintings, film, photography, television, and ads that are produced locally around the world but circulate globally through the internet. Utilizing theories of the visual from art history, photography, and film and media studies, students refine their visual critical thinking and writing skills. Students discover that even though art or films are produced in one country, their circulation across national and media boundaries reveals common themes and concerns.



For example, to bring into focus alternatives to the European painting styles of our textbook, and the American mythic focus of the Haub collection at the Tacoma Art Museum, we hosted Samoan American artist Jewel Castro, whose work has recently been featured in *The American Quarterly* (2016), and whose exhibitions have been held at NYU, University of Hawaii, UC Davis, and many other locales. She discussed how her family's recent history as immigrants influences her art, as her parents urged her to assimilate to U.S. culture, while her grandmother urged her to recognize and honor their history as elders in the Samoan community.

This tension is visible in her work. In the "Tales of a Fisherman" series, her uniformed uncle is flooded with purple to suggest the three Purple Hearts he received in the US Army, while the great toll resulting to his health is indicated by the snaking IV bottle shown in a later painting of him. Castro's work expresses past, present, and future as co-present, and people as materially at one with the land. She also uses the Siapo method, creating her canvases with the moistened bark and pulp of mulberry trees, like mats created in Samoan culture (see photo above).

Despite differing sites of origin, we see that issues related to identity, migration, time, memory, and contemporary crises (like climate change) suggest that global image culture is a central site where issues of global concern receive exposure.

- Dr. Joanne Clarke Dillman

- Dr. Margaret Griese





IGE Community Advisory Board members Deneen Grant of the Progressive Leadership Group, Dr. Enrique Leon of MultiCare, and Drew Bamford of HTC, together with moderator Dr. Divya McMillin, shared insights on “cross-training for success” at the Shared Futures networking social on February 16, 2018.

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for Success.” The packed hall of students, faculty, and community leaders engaged in roundtable discussions on failure and success, as well as practices of trust and risk. As I reflect on my own travels this year, five countries in the past five months alone, with all the stress of heightened security at every border, I am convinced even more of the border crossing work we do.

We are fortunate to have the flexibility at UW Tacoma to ensure our curriculum is ever attentive to the needs of our changing world and to transformative opportunities for our students. Global Honors classes continue to enroll to capacity. We’re poised to welcome more students as we roll out integrated honors pathways in collaboration with academic units across campus. We continue to support non honors students in global learning. We awarded 14 study abroad awards, an increase from 10 last year. We disbursed 14 conference travel awards and increased the number of year-long research fellowships from two in 2016-17, to six in 2017-18.

We end our banner year on a bittersweet note. We say goodbye to Assistant Director Paul Carrington, who has been a remarkable team member, ably supporting our expansion over the past six years. Students will miss his advising, good cheer, and I’m sure, even his multiple emails every day! Stay tuned as we announce a dynamic new team and exciting initiatives in the next newsletter. See you in the Fall!

- Divya McMillin, Professor and Executive Director

Fond Farewell

In August 2012, I stepped into the Reading Room in Cherry Parkes for the first time, and was warmly welcomed to a community of students, faculty and staff committed to achieving something so unique that I didn’t fully understand exactly what Global Honors was all about. Over the years, I’ve hosted countless prospective students in the same space, discussing their interest in the Program, and enjoyed observing how they too were intrigued to learn about the exciting opportunities that lay in store. I’ve then watched as each member grows and goes on to achieve incredible things, knowing that Global Honors and UW Tacoma have made a lasting impact on their lives.



Sitting in those familiar digs six years on, reflecting on my experience in such special company, I have mixed feelings as I consider what’s to come. It’s hard to say goodbye, knowing that the vision, resilience and generosity of spirit shared on this campus won’t be easily reproduced elsewhere. On the other hand, I’m thrilled to move on, confident that my time with Global Honors has prepared me to pursue longstanding personal goals. It’s comforting to know when and where we belong, but equally valuable to step out of our comfort zone to explore new horizons. Of the many people I have to thank, first and foremost are the individual students and alumni who have taught me as much as I could ever hope to teach them. To work in close proximity with such a diverse and inspiring group has been a true privilege. I am equally indebted to the many wonderful colleagues, staff and faculty alike, who have done so much from that very first day to make me one of their own.

Special acknowledgment, of course, must go to my closest coworkers and confidants, Divya and Alexis. I’ll always be grateful for the hard work, rapport and many humorous moments we’ve shared. Divya, from those earliest rambling conversations at my first NCHC conference in Boston, to the guidance you’ve provided as I’ve prepared for my departure, thank you for being such a consistently supportive mentor. Alexis, thanks for the positive energy throughout those busy moments (a little less thanks for the unsolicited Game of Thrones spoilers!). Finally, a special shout out must go to the IGE and Global Honors’ new Assistant Director, Lynn Hermanson. It gives me great peace of mind to know Divya, Alexis and everyone else in our community will be joined by someone who understands and cares so deeply about the students we serve. I know you’re in for an incredible journey, and wish you all the very best.

Be kind, run far, run fast.

- Paul Carrington, Assistant Director



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