LOOKING AHEAD: Global Honors Student Leadership Council

At the core of the Institute for Global Engagement (IGE) is Global Honors. Launched in 2005, Global Honors is UWT’s interdisciplinary honors program and offers undergraduates a global curriculum, a stimulating learning environment, and an active community of high-achieving students. Within this community, student engagement extends beyond the classroom to include co-curricular, social, and service activities organized by the Student Leadership Council (SLC), comprised of all Global Honors students. Here, the SLC’s newly elected co-chairs, Dane Jessen (Finance, ’16) and Chuck Messinger (Psychology, ’16), share their thoughts and plans for the upcoming year.

What is the Student Leadership Council (SLC), and what inspired you to get involved?

Dane: The SLC is a diverse group of young leaders working beyond the classroom to better themselves and the world around them. Made up of Global Honors students, we represent something special to the University of Washington Tacoma campus. What inspired me to get involved is the uncomfortable feeling I get with each new group task, for discomfort is a symptom of growth. Additionally, I was drawn to the opportunity to give back to the community that has given me so much.

Chuck: The SLC is the physical manifestation of the Global Honors cohort. Outside of academia, I see the SLC as being an extension of the hearts and souls of those chosen to take part in the Global Honors curriculum. I was deeply moved by the three prior co-chairs and their diversity and how each extended their passions into community involvement and SLC activities.

What are your plans for the SLC next year?

Dane: There is power in unity. Thus, it is important for members to feel accepted. Fostering a positive, constructive environment is important for getting people to open up. The sharing of ideas, dreams, struggles, and life involves a higher level of engagement that, in addition to teaching its members that it’s okay to try and fail, to dream big, and to be yourself, is highly productive in achieving the kind of forward-thinking body that we strive to be. In practical terms, I’d like to listen and gather data to figure out how the SLC can better fit each student’s needs and better engage the individual.

Chuck: Simply put: encouraging greater involvement by our cohort and expanding our community service activities in a way that can be easily managed by future members.

What lessons did you learn from last year’s SLC Co-Chairs?

Chuck: If you bring food...they will come.

Dane: There are big shoes to fill! I’ll probably have to wear a couple pairs of socks this year. They taught us what motivated undergrad students are really capable of, even under additional stresses, and demonstrated magnificently how to lead a group of unruly and taxed Honors students. They were mentors to us underclassmen in how to approach our academics - and never deviated from being genuinely good people.

How do you plan to divide up/coordinate your duties, and how can other GH students get involved?

Dane: I think Chuck has the personality and the brains, and I’ve got the “put evolutionary pressure on yourself and make yourself a little bit uncomfortable every day” attitude. We will grow into a really great team. I believe Chuck and I agree that the SLC belongs to each one of us, and we envision a high level of collaboration with each Global Honors student. “Co-chair” is just a title and a commitment, but all of us students are what will make the SLC great. That being said, we want students who are interested in participating and/or have ideas-paired-with-action plans to come to the table!

Chuck: I don’t do discomfort. It is not in my nature. Dane will apply the pressure, I will supply the tourniquet. We both have a challenging schedule this year and hope to get some of the more active members of our cohort involved in scheduling and managing some of our community events. There will be minimal division of duties between Dane and I. United we stand, divided we fall.

What is your favorite Global Honors memory so far?

Dane: Hmm... I would have to say taking the first class with Director Divya McMillin and Brian Golob. Seriously great class that really set the tone of GH for me and allowed me to connect with my classmates over the experience we shared.

Chuck: I cannot pinpoint any one event; however, the relationships that I have developed with many members of my cohort are friendships that will last a lifetime. There is a level of camaraderie that you develop as part of this cohort that exceeds anything I have experienced in my decades in academia.

What advice do you have for students considering Global Honors?

Dane: JUST DO IT! We are at UWT to educate ourselves and become more empowered people, but we are also here to help ourselves become the people we’re meant the to be. In short, we are here to build character. Layering the Global Honors Program on top of your regular schedule is not easy, but it is worth it. It builds the kind of character (and credentials) that will set you apart from the crowd. There are unique opportunities here that you will not find anywhere else, and by joining the club (so to speak), you get to be a part of an inspiring and supportive community. GH students have become my favorite people to see on campus. If I knew them at all, I know they will welcome you too.

Chuck: If you become part of this cohort of students, you will have access to resources above and beyond those made available to...

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other students. Scholarships, fellowships, study abroad opportunities, active mentors and advisors within the program, a private study room, and sometimes Paul (the Administrator) will make coffee that could strip the chrome off a bumper. Trust me, it is all worth it.

**Why are the co-curricular activities arranged by the SLC an important counterpart to academics?**

_Dane:_ Not everything in this world can be taught out of a textbook or in a classroom. Sometimes just doing something shoulder to shoulder with other students and then talking about it lets you discover lessons for yourself - at the same time you are building relationships.

_Chuck:_ Percentage-wise, very few students are active on campus outside of their classes. We all have other commitments that take up our time. The beautiful thing about the SLC and Global Honors is your role in the program is completely up to you! Our regular lunch gatherings allow us to communicate and work as a symbiotic whole. We plan community events based on your feedback, availability, and desire to take part. Our goal is to provide a supplement to your education that isn’t burdensome and gives you a sense of accomplishment.

### Congratulations Cohort of 2015!

_The Global Honors Program bids a fond farewell and wishes all the best to our graduating cohort of 2015!_
The Cohort of 2016-17

Four of our continuing Global Honors students share their thoughts on what drew them to the Program, what has made their time at UWT truly special, and what they hope to accomplish in their senior year at UW Tacoma.

Guillermo Sandoval
(Communications, ‘16)

UW Tacoma has afforded me an abundance of opportunities to get involved in everything from joining the Student Activities Board and assisting in event planning to serving as a Peer Advisor and helping run orientations for freshman and transfer students.

Perhaps one of the most meaningful experiences I’ve had so far was study abroad. As a sophomore, I had an amazing opportunity to participate in the Expedition Fellows Program (EFP), a unique (and highly affordable) study abroad option for UWT freshmen and sophomores. Joining the 2014 program to The Netherlands and Belgium, the most meaningful part of the whole experience was being in a different part of the world, where I could learn first-hand and create lasting friendships with people who were, for the most part, complete strangers prior to arriving there.

My experience abroad was life changing. I became interested in the world in a way that I never had before. Upon returning, I successfully applied for a position as a Study Abroad Ambassador for the Office of International Programs (OIP). My goal was and remains to encourage as many students as possible to study abroad and see the world. I joined the Global Honors Program because I wanted to be surrounded by people from a variety of disciplines, who view the world as critically and passionately as I do.

Kate Drohman
(Accounting, ‘16)

Jumping into my first year as a transfer student at UWT, I was grateful to wade through the worries of school with a welcoming cohort of Global Honors companions from a variety of backgrounds. One event that was particularly enriching was the Global Honors Research Colloquium, where seniors presented high-quality, yet relatable, research. This gave me both direction and enthusiasm for research that my classmate, Bronwyn Clarke, and I are conducting this year as Bamford Fellows in Global Engagement.

Studying methods for effective and sustainable implementation of technologies in developing contexts, Bronwyn and I plan to visit rural Haitian schools, where technology-providing initiatives are already in progress. This topic supplements my business studies, wherein we ask: Can businesses effectively and ethically implement their technologies in specific locales, in the name of an initiative? Should businesses create these projects when they have an implicit stake?

I never expected such opportunities as an undergraduate, making me all the more grateful for a school with programs that suit my needs and abilities. It’s exciting to look towards my senior year knowing that, whatever the year brings, it will be full of meaningful learning opportunities in a community of supportive people.

Bronwyn Clarke
(Politics, Philosophy & Economics, ‘16)

It was my first day in an honors class. Following introductions, Director Divya McMillin and Brian Golob jumped straight into the meat of the course: Globalization. As we began discussion, we soon realized our need for a lens—a method of analyzing globalization and its implications. It was at this point that Divya and Brian introduced their framework: the ‘Global Mind.’ The first step of the process? Propose a solution.

I had never before heard a teacher tell us to “Have a go!” Instead, it was always “Identify the problem. Tell us what other people have said. Then tell us what you think.” Divya and Brian’s approach—of starting with your ideas, then refining and substantiating them—was both daunting and electrifying. Being told that my voice matters was an experience I won’t soon forget.

One of the main things that drew me to UWT (and Global Honors) was its commitment to interdisciplinarity. Always interested in at least three subjects at once, this approach was good news for me. In my senior year, I’m looking forward to supplementing my PP&E curricula with my Global Honors thesis exploring the application of technology to developing educational contexts. I’m also excited to deepen my firsthand knowledge of government by serving in ASUWT. It’s going to be a busy year, but I wouldn’t have it any other way.

Chris Theine
(IAS, ‘16)

As a returning adult student, I was looking for a challenge and wanted to make the most of my educational opportunity. Having been gone from school so long, I didn’t think I’d get into Global Honors, so I was thrilled to be accepted…and then really nervous to begin! Any fears I had quickly dissolved, as the coursework, while challenging, was also inviting. It elicited new ways of thinking through the complicated global tensions that connect us all, each and every day.

I quickly bonded with Global Honors classmates whose perspectives not only add to mine own, but multiply it. The fact that we all come from different majors, with different expertise, brings such a diverse depth of knowledge to the topics we discuss. Some of my favorite moments during my recently completed first year in the program came when walking out of class with a friend or two, our jaws dropped in awe at our newfound understanding of how interdependent we truly are. Being together all year has allowed those conversations to deepen, enabling ethical interventions into the challenges we face—both globally and locally—to develop.

Watching the seniors last spring present their research, their interventions, at the Global Honors Research Colloquium was an inspiration. Now about to become a senior myself, I’m thrilled to begin working on my own Capstone project, and I can’t wait to see the remarkable work my cohort will create.
The UWT Global Honors Program is now accepting applications for the Autumn 2015 cohort. All students who will be of sophomore or junior standing that quarter, have a 3.5+ GPA, and a demonstrated interest in global themes are encouraged to apply online ASAP at:
tacoma.uw.edu/global-honors/admissions

Benefits Include:
- Interdisciplinary enrichment for all UWT majors
- Small class sizes, supportive faculty, and friendly community of engaged classmates
- Highly supportive honors advising and mentoring services
- Flexible pathways to Program completion, including:
  - Minor in Global Engagement (25+ credits)
  - Global Scholar (with prestigious Global Honors distinction, 21-24 credits)
  - Global Leadership certification (17-22 credits)
  - Global Citizenship certification (12-17 credits)
- Scholarships and funded opportunities, including:
  - Global Scholar merit award for all members (typically $500)
  - Bamford Fellowship in Global Engagement with $2000 award for research expenses
  - Core Course Paper Competition award ($500)
- Enhanced candidacy for UW and national scholarships
- Excellent preparation for post-graduate education and professional opportunities
- Access to program amenities, including the Global Honors Reading Room (computers, printer, coffee/tea, secure study space)
- Co-curricular, social and service activities, organized by the IGE and the Global Honors Student Leadership Council (SLC)

This newsletter was produced by Paul Carrington, Bronwyn Clarke, Kate Drohman, Dane Jessen, Charles (Chuck) Messinger, Guillermo Sandoval, Chris Theine, and Alexis Wheeler. The banner photo at the top of page 1 was taken by Alexis Wheeler in January 2009, and features the Khao Sok National Park, the largest area of virgin rainforest in southern Thailand.

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