

Western Worldwide

Your Gateway to Global Engagement

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NEWSLETTER OF THE GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY/SPRING 2016



High school students vote on resolution

Photograph by Joshua Place

WMU Hosts Inaugural Model UN Conference

The global and international studies program and Western's student Model UN Club held their First Annual High School Model UN Conference at Western in late April. Over seventy high school students from nine schools in Michigan and Indiana participated in the event. "I am thrilled to introduce this terrific program to our university", declared Dr. Kenneth Steuer, faculty with the global and international studies program.

The high school students served as delegates of individual countries in each committee and drafted and approved resolutions designed to address current global issues. Student members of the WMU Model UN Club served as chairs to oversee the diplomatic process. WMU faculty and staff served as judges and rated the performance of the delegates during the conference. "We really saw some creativity and innovative solutions coming from the students", observed judge Dr. Susan Pozo, Professor of Economics.

While attending the conference, high school student delegates had a chance to experience the campus at Western. They ate meals at Bigelow Dining Hall, browsed through international programs offered through the Study Abroad office, and participated in campus tours arranged by the Admissions Office.

The global and international studies program and the student Model UN Club plan to expand the conference next spring, and look forward to again collaborating with the UN Association of Kalamazoo. "This event showcases what global engagement at Western is all about", declared Dr. Jim Butterfield, Professor of Political Science.

From The Director

Greetings from sunny Kalamazoo! We have just celebrated the spring 2016 graduation of our students, and wish them all the best as they venture out into the world. At least five students are headed to graduate school, and we showcase three graduates who will be teaching English abroad (page 4). In late April, our Model UN Club put on an exhilarating Model UN high school conference, and we look forward to making this an annual spring event. Other student groups were active this semester; the newly formed RSO Advocates for Refugees and Crises (ARC) has teamed up with community groups to help welcome refugees and internally displaced persons (page 3). Finally, our program has grown; we now have "allied faculty" (p. 2). We are always interested in reaching out to our WMU alumni; please keep in touch.

Laura Hastings, PhD

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New Allied Faculty to Expand Program Curriculum and Research Opportunities

This spring, the Faculty Advisory Council recommended that we seek greater involvement from Western faculty in our program. Working with the Provost's office, we invited faculty to join the global and international studies program as allied faculty. At this printing, we have welcomed 72 faculty from four colleges and eleven departments. We hope to provide a space for intellectual collaborations as well as to enhance the visibility of the program. Faculty who offer courses that fulfill a requirement of the global and international undergraduate major are welcome, although any interested members of the teaching community may request to join. The affiliation is in name only; no part of the hiring or appointment is attached.

As the new semester begins, we hope to create a mechanism to facilitate greater interactions among faculty; a place to pursue curricular development, workshops and interdisciplinary research. We look forward to seeing what happens!

Global Engagement Beyond the University

Haley Phelan, Undergraduate, Global & International Studies



Global engagement is not something that begins and ends at the university. It is a lifelong process. An undergraduate degree should provide students with the intellectual tools to continue to learn and work in an increasingly globalized world. I'm not sure what I want to do after I graduate—as it turns out, the best things about a Global Studies degree is also the worst: I can't make up my mind. There are too many options, too many possible avenues to pursue. But when it comes to my experience at Western, I could not have asked for a more transformative one. As I write this, I am still working out the details regarding my study abroad next semester. I feel that my global engagement at the university is not yet complete without it—it's that important to my overall university experience. Yet, despite all of the additional opportunities that I missed or didn't have time for, I feel that I have

gained the most possible from my educational experience, as haphazardly as I landed into my major. Some of my favorite and most stimulating courses were ones that I decided to take at the last minute, on a whim. There's no one right way to become globally engaged at Western. The educational and personal development opportunities that exist for undergraduate students are unique and rare. You have to take advantage of them while you have the chance. You never know what they might lead to.

Alumni Needed: We are looking for global & international studies alumni to speak to current students about how to transition from student to professional. If you are interested in sharing your journey, please contact us at coas-global-intl-info@wmich.edu

Virginia Privett Named Presidential Scholar



Virginia Privett was recognized as one of Western's top seniors in the annual Presidential scholars Convocation in March, 2016. Our program selected Ginny as the most outstanding senior, based on her academic excellent and intellectual promise. Ginny will graduate later this summer with an economics disciplinary focus. In this photo, she poses with Drs. Laura Hastings and Thomas Kostrzewa.

New Student Organization Advocates for Refugees in Kalamazoo

In October of 2015, WMU students created a new student organization, Advocates for Refugees in Crisis (ARC) to combat the misconceptions about refugees in our society. Their role is to begin a dialogue about refugee resettlement among the students of WMU. This spring, ARC, in conjunction with Pastor Mark Couch of Solid Grounds Ministry and the Kalamazoo Resettlement Council, has assisted in the resettlement of several families from Syria and the Congo into the Kalamazoo community. If you would like to learn more, ARC can be contacted at arcwesternmichigan@gmail.com. They also have a facebook page under the name "ARC (Advocates for Refugees in Crisis."

Eight Students Inducted into New Sigma Iota Rho Chapter

In April 2016, eight students were inducted into a newly established chapter of Sigma Iota Rho, with Dr. Ken Steuer and Dr. Laura Hastings as Faculty Advisors.

The purpose of Sigma Iota Rho (SIR) is to promote and reward scholarship and service among students and practitioners of international studies, international affairs, and global studies and to foster integrity and creative performance in the conduct of world affairs. To be part of SIR, students must have junior or senior status, have completed at least twenty-one hours of courses in fields related to international studies, and maintained a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3. "The benefits membership," says Hayden McKee, President, "include being part of a unique community on campus that has a global outlook on world affairs and being able to share this perspective with others."



Inductees (from left to right): Hayden McKee (President), WesLee Tweesdale (Vice President), Elisabeth King, Tracy Allen (Secretary), Paige Barton, Monica Naida, Daniel Bucksbaum (Treasurer), and Abdulaziz Alsaedi

Student Careers: Focus on Teaching English Abroad

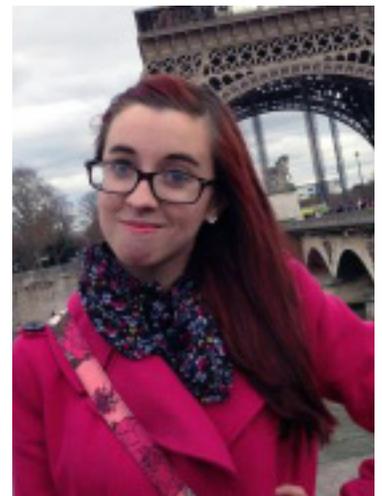


Monica Naida: France

Monica Naida (class of 2016) has accepted a position with the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF) for the 2016-2017 academic year. Beginning in October, she will be living in the north of France, teaching English to primary school children. Monica decided to apply to TAPIF after attending a forum on teaching English abroad earlier this year, hosted by the global and international studies program. “After I heard stories from others who had participated in the program,” she explained, “I decided that it would be a great first job after graduating university. I’ll be able to live in Europe, learn French, gain international experience, and gain a new skill: teaching!” Monica is pictured here on a WMU-led study tour to Senegal.

Elisabeth King: France

Elisabeth King (Class of 2016) has been accepted to the Teaching Assistant Program in France, sponsored by the French Ministry of Education, for the 2016-2017 academic year. She has been placed in the Académie de Nancy-Metz at the secondary level. Elisabeth double-majored in global and international studies and French. In Spring 2014, she studied abroad at the Centre for Applied Linguistics in Besancon France with program lead by Dr. Cynthia Running-Johnson. It was such a good experience that she knew she wanted to return to France when she graduated! In the future, Elisabeth plans to pursue graduate studies in international education.



Logan Scott: Japan

Logan Scott (class of 2016) has been awarded a position in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, administered through a collaboration of Japan’s local and national government authorities. JET is one of the world’s largest international exchange programs, and is designed to assist young people build an international network and become successful in a global society. While in the global and international studies program, Logan focused his studies on Religion and Asia. He studied abroad at the Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto Japan during the 2013-14 academic year, which he says was a life-changing experience. Logan’s long-term career goals are to become a professor of Japanese and translator and interpreter.

The Cosmography of Governments

M. Andrew Bodinger,
Undergraduate, Global & International Studies

That red string ties your ankle
[finger, neck]
lest satellites and data and other imaginary
bullets fail to circumnavigate lines
in the shape of flags.

Blame 1648 and 1868 for your
alliances; necessary, arbitrary, pacing.
Never mind the dying bees,
rhinos, tongues,

that Aral Sea: an entire country
in a single drop, where boats
yearn for water like Germanic islanders
missed arches, like democracies
miss [tyrants].

Because Globalization is island hopping– revel
in Korean students reading
the Gettysburg Address, in Australians
joining ISIS, in Latinate scrawling
Indigenous graffiti.

That cartographer shrunk Africa,
traded those snake avenues to
China (heterogeneity is the
new culture).

Governments are the new
Natural [organic], electing companies
as the new [animals], brandishing
NGOs as the new [peoples].

That planet is an arc; an angular plane.
From its peak there are stars above.
Below; planets sloping, sliding.

No human is a [continent],
and once humans conquer
the world, they must outlive it.



Lauren Carney Receives Make a Difference Award

Lauren Carney was selected as a recipient of a 2016 semi-annual Make a Difference Award for her excellent service to the University. In her roles of Academic Advisor and Administrative Assistant II in the global and international studies program, she has truly made a difference in the lives of the many colleagues and students she has worked with.

One nominator wrote, “Lauren’s office was the fifth advising office I had been to in two days, and I was so frustrated with myself. When I walked in, I had no idea what to expect, but she greeted me with a big smile and a load of positivity. Within 15 minutes, she had filled my head with tons of ideas. I knew I had found the place for me.” “I never thought something as big as study abroad would be an option for me,” another student wrote. “She was the first person to open me up to the amazing experience it is.”

Lauren recently joined the Kalamazoo Scholars program as a Campus Coach, where she will no doubt continue to enrich the lives of Western students. Lauren is a person who takes ownership of everything she does. She is the ultimate student advocate. She is a person who makes a difference. We will miss her dearly.

Congratulations to Our Spring 2016 Graduates!

Amna Azam
Language: Urdu

Elizabeth King*
Language: Spanish

Kelli Rombaugh*
Language: French

Michael Bodinger *
Language: Chinese

Austin Matheney
Language: French

Isabelle Sanhou
Language: French

Ryan Brazee
Language: Chinese

Taylor McGinnis*
Language: Spanish

Logan Scott
Language: Japanese

Ryan Burris
Language: French

Hayden McKee
Language: French

Emily Smith
Language: Spanish

Linda Hanes*
Language: French

Paul McQuaid*
Language: Chinese

Connor Smith
Language: Spanish

Depeila Hill
Language: Chinese

Monica Naida*
Language: French

Rachel Spalvieri-Kruse
Language: Spanish

Elisabeth King
Language: French

Alexander Proskurnya*
Language: Russian

* With honors



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