

Western Worldwide

Your Gateway to Global Engagement

Volume 1, Issue 1

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



Dr. Thomas Kostrzewa talks with students after class

New Curriculum for Incoming Students in 2016

In spring 2015, a newly formed faculty advisory committee met to discuss ways to give the global and international studies major greater structure and direction and to differentiate it from other majors.

The committee developed a set of “focus fields” that integrate courses from across campus. The new curriculum, passed in October 2015, includes the following six areas:

- State, security and transnational governance
- Identities and cultures in a globalized world
- Inequality and social responsibility
- Global health and the environment
- Migration and population dynamics
- Global communication, expression and information systems

“Students will be able to select a direction for their studies early in their program,” commented Jim Butterfield, committee member. “This will encourage greater reflection and research in global studies and provide students with vocabulary to describe their studies to future employers and graduate schools.”

Students will continue to study a world language and take courses from a minimum of four different departments, which includes new global studies electives. Beginning in the fall, a 3-credit study abroad or internship course will be required.

“The global and international studies major is unique at Western, drawing on courses with global content from across the university,” remarked Ann Miles, another committee member. “It is a curricular representation of the university’s commitment to Global Engagement, one of WMU’s three vision pillars.”

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to an inaugural issue of the global and international studies program newsletter! We are excited to begin our third year as a College of Arts and Science major, leaving the Haenicke Institute for Global Education busy with study abroad, international recruitment, and the CELCIS (Center for English Language and Culture for International Students) program.

Our undergraduate major is thriving, thanks to terrific students, dedicated staff and an attentive faculty advisory committee. Of course, Dr. K is still shaking the rafters with his classes! This spring, we are hosting a high school Model United Nations conference at Western and in the fall, we launch a new curriculum.

Above all, we look forward to reaching out to our Western Michigan University alumni and hearing about all your activities. Please keep in touch. We’d love to hear from you!

Laura Hastings, Ph.D.

Global & international studies

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Students Kick Off Model UN Club: High school conference scheduled in April

Ken Steuer, Ph.D., Program Assistant and Instructor



The Model UN Club at WMU began the Fall 2015 semester with ambitious plans. Students had formed a new RSO last April, sponsored by Global and International Studies and the Political Science Department. The first simulation was held in October; 20 undergraduates represented members of the U.S. Embassy in Freetown, Sierra Leone and had to negotiate the foreign aid budget for that country for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

The Model UN Club had its second simulation in early November and addressed the issue of Syrian refugees and their impact on Europe. In late November, students held their third training simulation and formulated a resolution to deal with issues associated with the contested Spratly Islands.

These simulation exercises will help WMU students prepare to participate in the North American Model UN Conference, held in Toronto in February 2016. They are excited about this adventure!

The group is also working with Global and International Studies to develop an annual Model UN conference for high school students, to be held the weekend of April 23-24, 2016 at WMU. More than 100 students from at least five schools in Michigan and Indiana will attend.

2015/2016 Highlighted Events

Human Trafficking: In Our Own Backyard

Becky McDonald, President, Women at Risk International; Amanda Colgrove, Coalition Against Trafficking and Exploitation; Angie Moe, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, WMU. September 30, 2015

Seminar on Global Health in Kalamazoo and Beyond: Infant Mortality. Catherine Kothari, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Homer Stryker Medical School, WMU. October 7, 2015

Teaching English Abroad Panel Discussion

Alice Oliver, Coordinator of International Partnerships, Haenicke Institute; Neal Money, Instructor, CELCIS; Sommer Cain, graduate student, Department of Spanish. October 15, 2015

An Island Divided Against Itself: The

Hispaniola Forum Marisha Lecea, Ph.D., Instructor, Political Science and Global and International Studies, WMU. November 10, 2015.

Career Readiness for Global & International Studies Students

Karen Steeno, Career Development Specialist, WMU. February 23, 2016

Human Trafficking: In Our Own Backyard

Sara LaCroix, Founder, Kalamazoo Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition; Jodi Mohny, Senior Director of Development, Living Water International; Benjamin Moe, Director, The Ark Services for Youth; Rita Teichman, VP of Mission Integration, Sisters of Saint Joseph. February 23, 2016

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

International Education at Western Michigan university

Kristen Witzel, Doctoral Assistant

The global and international studies program at WMU began in 2003. However, Western Michigan University's focus on international education traces back to 1958, when the Dean of General Studies appointed an interdisciplinary committee to investigate how students should be introduced to Non-Western cultures. In 1959, the Institute of Regional Studies (later renamed the Institute of International and Area Studies) was established, which developed programming in Slavic, Latin American, African, and Asian studies. Soon after its inception, the Institute won a \$144,000 grant from the Carnegie Foundation to develop faculty training, library, and student programming (Stine, 1980:111).

Through the 1960s, opportunities for both students and faculty to participate in international exchanges expanded. Western's investment in internationalizing its curriculum earned it national recognition in 1965, when the Institute of International Education and Readers Digest Foundation awarded it University of the Year (Stine, 1980:112).

In the 1990s, Western Michigan University intentionally began to internationalize its faculty. In 1993, President Diether Haenicke implemented a special hiring program that allocated funds to hire

tenure-track faculty with international expertise (Kurz, Matt, ed. 1997:5). This diversification not only strengthened the quality of instruction, but expanded opportunities for international partnerships. In 1998, the Board of Trustees established the Diether H. Haenicke Institute for Global Education to facilitate internationalization of the university's academic environment.

In 2003, Dr. Ron Davis, Director of the Haenicke Institute, launched the global and international studies program. The program was run jointly by the Haenicke Institute and the College of Arts and Sciences until 2014, when it moved to its present home at the College of Arts and Sciences. Its former directors have included Dr. Jon Holtzman, Dr. Olasope ("Sope") Oyelaran, Dr. Donald McCloud, with interim directors Dr. Michelle Metro-Roland and Dr. Cathryn Bailey. Each contributed to the program's growth and development in unique and important ways. Notable changes over the years include the addition of four minors, a language proficiency, a capstone seminar, and the introduction of topics courses to the curriculum.

The global and international studies program is now located in Moore Hall, led by Dr. Laura Hastings, Political Science, and assisted by Dr. Ken Steuer, History, with academic advising and office support from Lauren Carney. Dr. Thomas Kostrzewa has been teaching for the program since 2008. There are currently 125 majors and 46 minors in the program.

Student Voices: Reflections on Global Education

"I had the privilege to participate in Western's summer study abroad program in Lyon, France. The blend of modern and old made it such an interesting experience. The French uphold their traditions with pride and welcome you to experience them as well." -Sarala Terpestra, (Class of '15)

"A globally engaged education does not have to include studying abroad, nor does it have to sacrifice diversity or personal enrichment." Jorge Cortez (Class of '15)



Finding Purpose in Peru

Zachary Frazier, Undergraduate, Global & international studies

In the summer of 2015 I traveled to Urubamba, Peru to install water filters and chimneys with Western's Global Studies faculty-led study abroad program. This experience provided me with a first-hand account of the impact development can have on the Global South and helped me to truly understand the urgency surrounding the issues I had been learning about in class. While this all would have been worth the trip, the aspect that struck me the most was the personal relationships I was able to make with the people that lived there, and in particular, the relationship I was able to develop with my host family.



A Mother's Day celebration in Urubamba, Peru

My host mother, Antonia, was a woman who was always welcoming and served as a beacon of love and friendship in a foreign land. Antonia consistently went out of her way to take care of me and my roommate Joe. She invited us to a Mother's Day celebration with her family and the entire neighborhood, first feeding us a traditional meal of guinea pig and then taking us as her guests of honor to the neighborhood festival. Her generosity was incredible, and even in an area where poverty was widespread she wouldn't let us pay for anything. At the festival she had the band performing announce our presence, at which point the entire community greeted us warmly.

In a world beset by such inequity it is all too easy to become apathetic. Though Global Studies has helped me to understand how we might ease these inequities, Antonia showed me why we should. In a very real way, she renewed my faith in humanity and my will to rectify the issues facing those in the Global South.

2015/2016 Global & International Studies Faculty Advisory Committee



Top row: Gregory Veeck, Geography; Maarten Vonhof, Biology; Cynthia Running-Johnson, World Languages and Literatures; Vincent Desroches, World Languages and Literatures.



Bottom row: Ann Miles, Sociology; Susan Pozo, Economics; James Butterfield, Political Science; Steve Covell, Comparative Religion

The global and international studies program has engaged a multidisciplinary faculty advisory committee charged with guiding the development and growth of the program. The committee meets several times a year to offer counsel to the program director, and to review proposed changes to program curriculum, policy, and assessment.

Selected Honors



Ellen Knuth Receives Alumni Achievement Award

On October 23, 2015, the Department of World Languages and Literatures and the Global and International Studies program jointly recognized Ms. Knuth for her commitment to international exchange and understanding. Knuth graduated from Western Michigan University in 2008 with a degree in Global and International Studies, and minors in Japanese and History. As a student, she participated in an exchange program in Kyoto, Japan. After earning her bachelor's degree, she returned to Japan for four years, working as an assistant

language teacher through the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) program. Knuth was recently promoted to Marketing Director at Panrimo LLC, a study abroad program provider in Birmingham, Michigan. In 2014 she co-authored an autobiographical and inspirational book with her mother, Jane Knuth, titled, "Love Will Steer Me True: A Mother and Daughter's Conversations on Life, Love and God", published by Loyola Press.



Ian Magnuson Awarded Fulbright Fellowship

Magnuson earned a bachelor's degree from WMU in Spring 2015, double majoring in Global and International Studies and German. Upon graduation, he was awarded an English teaching assistantship at two German university-preparatory high schools.

Magnuson, who studied abroad in Bonn, Germany in 2012, is preparing for a career working with international nonprofit organizations or in international higher education.

December 2015 Graduates

Jacqueline Marie Anger

Focus area: History

Language: French

Cum laude

Todd James Holquist

Focus area: History

Language: Spanish

Magna cum laude

Hector Silva

Focus area: Political Science

Language: Spanish

Jorge Pascual Cortez-Ramirez

Focus area: Political Science

Language: Spanish

Maria Alicia Mata

Focus area: Geography

Language: Spanish

Sarala C. Terpstra

Focus area: Economics

Language: French

Alexis Nicole Hickey

Focus area: Comparative Religion

Language: Arabic

Summa cum laude

Oluwabusola Omolaoe Odunlami

Focus area: Political Science

Language: English

Alexa C. Zmich

Focus area: Anthropology

Language: Italian

Cum laude