



OFFICE OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON | TACOMA



There's Something to Learn Everywhere

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

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2019-20 BY THE NUMBERS

271 international students from 26 different countries enrolled at UW Tacoma in autumn 2019

204 UW Tacoma students applied to study abroad from early fall 2019 to summer 2020

51 students studied abroad in early fall 2019 and winter 2020

132 international alumni engaged in Optional Practical Training in the U.S. (Autumn 2019)

83 students and alumni submitted applications to competitive fellowships

25 students and alumni were awarded fellowships

>100 students and staff attended informal Japanese and Arabic language lessons

50 students applied to the Global Ambassadors Program

5 J-1 Exchange Visitors (visiting scholars) were sponsored by UW Tacoma faculty

7 faculty members from 5 academic Schools participated in our third COIL Fellows cohort.

38 fellowships workshops were offered to students and faculty

19 OPT and CPT workshops offered to international students

364 advising sessions were conducted with international students

The Office of Global Affairs works collaboratively to foster global citizenship by promoting global learning opportunities, building international partnerships, and supporting international students, scholars, and research at the University of Washington Tacoma. We extend our university's urban-serving mission, its commitment to access, and our strengths in community-engaged learning and partnerships into the global sphere.



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OGA Fellows



Kuniya "Kuni" Yoshikawa
Communication, BA 2020



Wenyan "Leah" Li
Business Management, BA 2020



Linh Dao
Biomedical Sciences, BS 2020



Cierra Figaro
Communication, BA 2020

Global Ambassadors Coordinator



Zaira Rojas
Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, BA
2020



The Office of Global Affairs recognizes that at UW Tacoma we learn, teach, and live on or near the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish people. The UW Tacoma campus is specifically situated on the traditional territory of the Puyallup. We have a responsibility to acknowledge our Indigenous connections, as well as, histories of dispossession and forced removal that have allowed for the growth and survival of this institution.



UW Tacoma's Office of Global Affairs, in partnership with Global Initiatives at UW Bothell, hosted the first ever International Virtual Exchange Conference in 2019. This conference brought over 350 people from 28 countries representing six world regions to our campus.

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing racialized violence, and persistent attempts to marginalize and scapegoat immigrant communities and international students, the 2019-20 academic year was marked by deep pain. Reflecting on the 2019-20 academic year, I was inspired by the incredible resilience, compassion, and fortitude of UW Tacoma communities. For instance, when the federal government made multiple attempts to dismantle opportunities for international students to start or continue their education at UW Tacoma, our communities stood strong and devised strategies to support students inside and outside of the classroom. Similarly, as the political winds pushed against the imperative for meaningful global engagement and international solidarity, my colleagues in the Office of Global Affairs and our partners across campus worked to foster a community of care and build support for the value of global learning and intercultural and cross-cultural collaboration.

As we look towards the future and think about the transformation of global learning and international engagement at UW Tacoma in response to the global pandemic, the Office of Global Affairs will continue to deepen and expand opportunities for our students, faculty, and staff to develop cultural humility through on-campus, virtual, and travel-based initiatives, engage difference with an eye toward shared learning and mutual respect, and ground our organizational culture, practices, and policies in anti-racism.

The OSCAR goes to...

The **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD** recognizes international students who show outstanding leadership and are meaningfully involved in campus life. Both of our 2019-20 awardees have proactively taken initiative to create more opportunities for international students to meet one another and build community at events such as UWTea Time, international student trips, and International Friends Club (a UW Tacoma RSO). They have great ideas and passion for helping, and have shown leadership by advocating for the needs of international students. Join us in congratulating our 2019-2020 International Student Leadership Awardees! **Wenyan Li** and **Xiqui Huang**.

The **GLOBAL CITIZEN AWARD** recognizes students who work to expand co-curricular global learning opportunities in alignment with the mission and values of the Office of Global Affairs and the urban-serving mission of UW Tacoma. Awardees are exemplars of global citizenship in that they practice cultural humility and selfless service to their peers and the broader campus community.

Maryam Al Darraji has been leading informal Arabic lessons at UW Tacoma since September 2018. It's inspiring to see how she has grown as a facilitator, how she's introduced students to a language that is not offered for credit at UW Tacoma, and how she provides insights into Arabic speaking cultures.

Through his participation in the Global Ambassadors Program, **Jordan Williams** continually practiced cultural humility and shared his passion for international education by engaging with both his peers and the broader campus community.

A Rising Star

AMBER HALLBERG, UW Tacoma International Student Advisor, received the NAFSA Region 1 2019 Rising Star Award. This award recognizes someone who has practiced in the field of International Education for fewer than five years and who shows great potential. Congratulations to Amber for this recognition and thank you for all your work to support international students!



OGA Awards and Recognitions

Campus Partner Awards

Each year, we highlight two partners whose contributions to global learning were exceptional.

Teaching and Learning Center (TLC)

TLC staff are great advocates for international students. Their contributions to international student orientations and attendance at events for international students are just two examples of their commitment to student success. TLC staff truly care about the experiences of international students at UW Tacoma and have been pivotal in conducting focus groups designed to enhance services offered by OGA and across campus to support international student success.

Information Technology (IT)

The IT department spent over six months working with our study abroad team to develop an in-house study abroad application system. We can now access applications at any time throughout the process, which is a huge improvement to our previous system. We especially appreciate their patience and dedication to detail during several rounds of testing. We could not have made an application system suited to our students' needs without their hard work and collaboration.

We deeply appreciate all of our meaningful collaborations with colleagues across campus and celebrate the work of not only our annual awardees, but all those who support students, staff, and faculty at UW Tacoma.





UWTea Time is an opportunity to enjoy snacks from different cultures around the world, grab a cup of tea or coffee, and meet with UW Tacoma students, faculty and staff and have some relaxing fun. This is also an opportunity for international students to meet with their international student advisor for informal discussions and support.

During autumn 2020, UWTea Time will be held weekly via Zoom. Click the image to the left for more information.

Students and faculty from Brazil enjoy some time with OGA Global Ambassadors



International Student and Scholar Services

2019-20 Visiting Scholars

SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS AND SCIENCES

HOSTED BY DR. MARGARET GRIESSE

Dr. Flávia de Ávila has a PhD in Public Law and is an Assistant Professor in the International Relations Department at the Federal University of Sergipe, Brazil. Her areas of expertise include Human Rights, Humanitarian Law, International Public, and Labor Law and Biopolitics. While at UW Tacoma, Dr. Ávila conducted research in the area of Human Rights, Anti-democratic processes, and Gender Studies.



MILGARD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

HOSTED BY DR. GIM SEOW

Dr. Qifeng Li is an Assistant Professor of Management, Shandong University, and has a PhD from Xiamen University. Dr. Li's research fields include audit quality, earnings management, tax burden, and corporate governance. At UW Tacoma, Dr. Li observed classes, attended seminars, and completed research papers.



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

HOSTED BY DR. JEFF COHEN

Dr. Woonchan Shim is a Professor in the Department of Social Welfare at Daejeon University in South Korea. Dr. Shim's fields of expertise include mental health social work and trauma among women. Dr. Shim researches moral injury among North Korean defectors residing in South Korea and moral injury among mental health professionals after a client's death from suicide. Dr. Shim also writes on cognitive behavioral therapy for college students with low self-esteem and self-directedness.



SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

HOSTED BY DR. WEI CHENG

Dr. Ke Xiao received his PhD in circuit and system from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications. He is an Associate Professor at North China University of Technology. He has long been engaged in the research and development and teaching work of wireless communications, the Internet of Things, and embedded systems.



HOSTED BY DR. CHUNMING GAO

Dr. Wei Zhuang received his PhD in Detecting & Measuring Technique & Instrumentation from Southeast University. He is an Associate Professor at Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology. Dr. Zhuang's research interests include algorithmic, optimization, and distributed system design issues in Human-computer interaction and wireless communications over mobile sensor networks.



Public Health and Community Medicine in Delhi, India

In this program, students are placed within public health nongovernmental organizations working to implement social reforms and improve public health outcomes in India with emphasis on the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and management of infectious diseases.

Participants learn about key public health challenges facing India such as low rates of immunization, poor sanitation and waste management, and unsafe drinking water.

Students also gain an understanding of the lingering impact of India's caste system and challenges in implementing public health initiatives within a culturally and linguistically diverse population.



Alexandra Dogbe

CFHI Global Health Experiential Learning Program Early Fall 2019

Doing More with Less: Healthcare in Remote Southern Bolivia (Tarija)

Kristen Hargett



In this program, students rotate with local physicians through specialties including pediatrics, surgery, cardiology and internal medicine in a regional teaching hospital.

Participants learn about Bolivian culture and study conversational and medical Spanish while living with a local family in Tarija.

Students witness treatments for pathologies not commonly seen in North America, including parasitosis, tuberculosis, and Chagas.

Study Abroad Highlights

The Gambia Study Abroad Internship Program Winter 2020



The Netherlands: From Sea to Shining Sea Early Fall 2019



UWT OGA Presents:

A Day in the Life

Royze Banados (Biomedical Sciences, BA 2021) spent three weeks in Kabale, Uganda on the CFHI: Nutrition, Food Security, and Sustainable Agriculture program. Click on Royze's image to see one of her "Day in the Life" videos.



Christopher Sim (Communication, BA '20)

"I was initially thinking about UW Seattle but then I heard the Tacoma campus offered classes that intersect with design," he said. "So it was that and the incredibly diverse student body that really attracted me."

Read more about Christopher's journey by clicking the image below.



Christopher Sim: Feels Like Home

Christopher Sim's journey took him from Malaysia to UW Tacoma.

Gilman Scholars



Natalye Guzman

(Psychology, BA '21)



Degan Hussein

(Biomedical Sciences, BS '22)



Nicole Hunter

(Communications, BA '20)



Harmanjit Dhillon

(Biomedical Sciences, BA '21)

2020-21 Fulbright Scholar

Saranda Ross (Communications, BA '15; UW Law School, JD '19) was selected for a 2020-21 Fulbright Scholarship to conduct fieldwork in Brazil. A Tacoma native, Saranda Ross is a 2019 UW Law graduate and licensed attorney who has received a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct fieldwork in Brazil. Fluent in Portuguese, Ross will work with underserved communities in Brazil to advance equal access to food justice. Her project focuses on legislative and sociopolitical solutions to environment-related food insecurity including availability, access, utilization, and stability of resources.



2020 Mary Gates Scholar



Tucker Stewart (Computer Science and Systems, BS '20) received a 2020 Mary Gates Scholarship for his research on peak volume prediction in network traffic with Drs. Juhua Hu and Anderson Nascimento. Tucker's research aims to improve forecasting models for anticipating peak volumes using time series decomposition.

Student Fellowships and Awards

Fellowship Name	Recipient(s)
Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander (AANAPISI) Scholars	Melissa Atienza (Global Studies and Business Management, BA '20) Jonah Bardos (Computer Engineering & Systems, BS '21) Caleb Chang (Computer Science & Systems, BS '21) Joseph Dayonot (Information Technology, BS '20) Abid Rahmani (Business Administration, BA '21) Francine Ruth (Pre-major) Cindy Thao (Healthcare Leadership, BA '20)
Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program	Mika Tanaka (Global Studies, BA '20)
Freeman-ASIA	Degan Hussein (Biomedical Sciences, BS '21)
Latino Center for Health Student Scholars Fellowship	Stacey Fernandez (Social Welfare, BA '20)
Bonderman Fellowship	Drew Pierce-Street (Social Work, MSW '20)
Department of Defense Science, Mathematics, Research for Transformation (DoD SMART)	Georgianna Strobin (semi-finalist) (Urban Studies, BA '20)
Fulbright U.S. Student Program	Saranda Ross (Communications, BA '15, UW Law, JD '19)

Degan Hussein (Biomedical Sciences, BS '22) had planned to spend the 2020-2021 academic year participating in the [Korea University Exchange](#) program in Seoul, South Korea. In preparation for this program, Degan applied for many study abroad scholarships, including the [Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship](#) and the [Freeman-Asia Scholarship](#) and is a recipient of both. After the COVID-19 pandemic altered her plans, she quickly reassessed her situation and decided to pursue the same study abroad program in 2021-2022, choosing to spend her senior year abroad in South Korea. She will be able to defer a portion of the scholarships to her 2021-2022 study abroad program.

"I was inspired to apply to this program because my minor is Korean, and I wanted to spend some time in the country that I was studying. This will be my first time living alone, and I hope that it will be an impactful time away from home. One of my passions has always been learning languages so I am excited for this opportunity."



A Story of Resilience and Success

Fellowship Name	Recipient(s)
Gilman International Scholars	Natalye Guzman (Pre-major) Harmanjit Dhillon (Biomedical Sciences, BS '20) Degan Hussein (Biomedical Sciences, BS '21) Nicole Hunter (Communications, BA '20)
Udall Scholar	Taylor Owens (Criminal Justice, BA '21)
Mary Gates Research Scholars	Anna Howard (Healthcare Leadership, BA '20) Myai Nguyen (Healthcare Leadership, BA '20) Casey Wagner (Pre-major) Tucker Stewart (Computer Science and Systems, BA '20)
Husky 100	Michelle Burchett (Ethnic, Gender, and Labor Studies, BA '20) Drew Dunston (Accounting, BA '21) Chanel Athena Estrada (Biomedical Sciences, BS '20) Sarah B. Smith (Communications, BA '20) Heather Swanson (Social Work, MSW '21)

Taylor Owens (Criminal Justice, BA '21) is a descendant of the Squaxin Island Tribe who hopes to use restorative justice to strengthen Native American communities. She has been working as a Tobacco Cessation Specialist for her tribe for almost two years developing innovative public health programming. She is also interning for the Department of Justice as a Legal Assistant focused on Indian Country cases. Seeing a need in her community, she has been organizing an annual Youth Education, Career, and Recruitment Fair that connects Native youth to post-secondary education and career opportunities. After graduating from UW Tacoma, she plans to pursue a Master's in Public Administration with the goal of working in tribal government.



2020 Udall Scholar

The Global Ambassadors Program seeks to develop globally-minded members from the standpoint of cultural humility and sincere connections between our local and global communities. The 2019-2020 Global Ambassadors program included more social engagement opportunities and community building activities for its members. Our partnership with the Center for Service Learning encouraged several Global Ambassadors members to participate in the Break-Away program. Visiting students from Brazil were invited to a cohort meeting to discuss similarities and differences between our two nations. Special thanks to Zaira Rojas, our Global Ambassadors Coordinator.

Global Learning on Campus

Sharing Cultures, Learning Languages

Maryam Al Darraji (Biomedical Sciences, BS '22)

Maryam, a native Arabic speaker, has been facilitating informal Arabic lessons at UW Tacoma since fall 2018. As a child, she lived in Iraq and Jordan, and came to the United States as a refugee. "When I teach Arabic, I focus on creating an immersive environment... I look for ways to fuel [students'] passion for learning a new language."



Momoka Matsuo (Global Studies, BA '21)



Momoka is an international student from Japan who has been facilitating informal Japanese lessons for the UW Tacoma community. In addition to introducing the language, she frequently shares insights about Japanese culture, music, and culinary traditions.

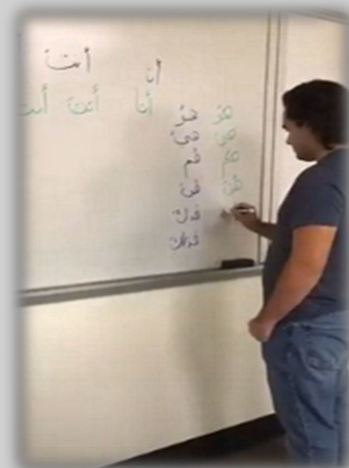
Thank you to Maryam and Momoka for this important work and for offering these lessons virtually during the COVID-10 pandemic.

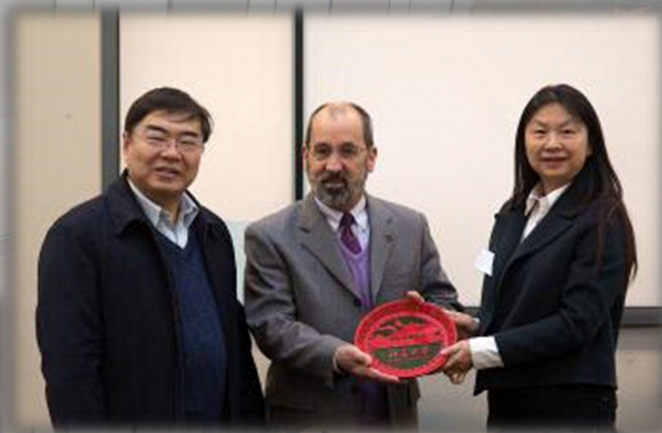
FREE OGA Language Lessons Continue in 2020-21 via Zoom

[Sign up for Arabic Language Lessons:](#) Mondays, 1-2pm & Fridays, 3:45-4:45pm

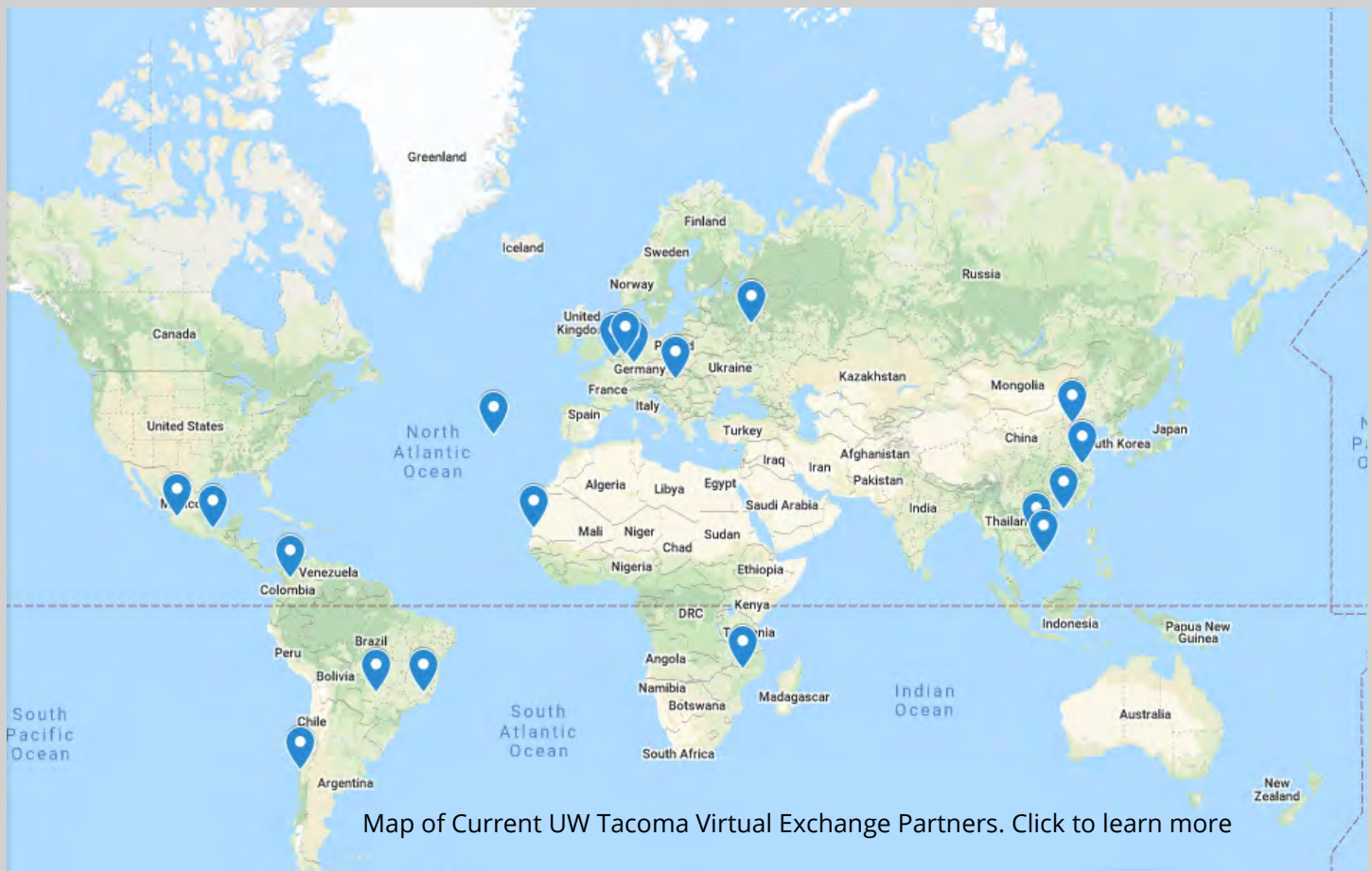
[Sign up for Japanese Language Lessons:](#) Fridays, 5-6pm

Trained student workers offered informal Arabic and Japanese language lessons for the third year in a row. After Covid-19 hit, Maryam and Momoka pivoted quickly and offered virtual lessons via Zoom for all of spring quarter. Thank you for introducing our students to these languages in a fun and engaging way. **Click the image to the right to see what students had to say about our Arabic lessons.**





A delegation of students, faculty, and administrators from Peking University visited UW Tacoma in December 2019 to begin the development of student and faculty exchanges with the School of Engineering and Technology. The delegation also toured Boeing with UW Tacoma faculty and students.



In spring quarter, **Dr. Weichao Yuwen** in the School of Nursing and Healthcare Leadership taught an Intro to Global Health course and **partnered with a graduate class at Nanjing Medical University in China**. The graduate students in Nanjing developed a qualitative survey about students' experience with COVID-19. The survey included questions about how COVID-19 had impacted their daily lives, how their home state responded to the pandemic, how their family's understood COVID-19, and more. Students in both countries answered the questions in writing. And then the graduate students at Nanjing Medical University analyzed the data and presented the results to the UW Tacoma class.



2019-20 COIL Fellows

Sunny Chieh Cheng, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing and Healthcare Leadership

Laura L. Feuerborn, Professor, School of Education

Lisa Hoffman, Professor, School of Urban Studies

Sushil Oswal, Professor, School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Raghavi Sakpal, Assistant Teaching Professor, School of Engineering and Technology

Yi (Jenny) Xiao, Assistant Professor, School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Anaid Yerena, Assistant Professor, School of Urban Studies

International Virtual Exchange

Study Abroad Blogs



"Week two and three of The Gambia have been exciting and overwhelming (in the best way possible of course). On week two we began our internships, each student in this study abroad program has an internship tailored to their major and interest. I am a biomedical science major and am interning with The Network of Girls Against Human Trafficking (NOGAHT). You may think, why would a biomed major participate in a human rights internship? For me I wanted to be engaged in human rights in a developing country, this experience so far has been so insightful, and I am actively learning new things every day."

-Alexis Wilhelm, Biomedical Sciences, Spring '21

[Read more from study abroad bloggers by clicking here](#)

3RD ANNUAL GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PANEL: TRANSITIONS

Join the Office of Global Affairs at our annual Global Citizenship Panel. Panelists will discuss how transitions between global and local spaces have shaped their ideas, social identity, academics, professional goals and more.

**ADRIANNA
ZAN**

Biomedical Sciences '20
Asian Studies Minor

**ADILBEK
DOSTIYAROV**

Computer Science & System
'20

**AMARI
DAVIS**

Criminal Justice
'20

**HO-YEUNG
CHU**

Business
'21

**MEILING
SPROGER**

Communication '18
Global Honors & Politics Minor



Watch the 3rd Annual Global Citizenship Panel: Transitions by clicking the image above

Bringing Learning Back to Campus

OGA Advisory Council

Thank you to the faculty, staff, and students who support our work by serving on the OGA Advisory Council:

Name	Campus Unit
Shooq Alhathelool	Graduate student, Milgard School of Business
Dr. Mohamed Ali	Professor, Director of Graduate Studies, UW Tacoma
Dr. Margo Bergman	Associate Teaching Professor, Milgard School of Business
Fadumo Diriye	Student, School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
Dr. Katie Haerling	Associate Professor, Nursing & Healthcare Leadership
Dr. Jarek Sierschynski	Assistant Professor, School of Education
Dr. Lisa Hoffman	Professor, School of Urban Studies
Mentha Hynes-Wilson	Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Dr. Turan Kayaoglu	Professor, School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
Kelvin Keown	English Learner Specialist, Teaching and Learning Center
Dr. JaeRan Kim	Assistant Professor, School of Social Work & Criminal Justice
Dr. Jimmy McCarty	Director, Center for Equity and Inclusion
Sally Murphy	Assistant Director, Institute for Innovation & Global Engagement/Global Honors
Dr. Anderson Nascimento	Associate Professor, School of Engineering & Technology
Marisa Petrich	Instructional Design Librarian, Library
Will Taylor	Senior Academic Advisor, University Academic Advising
Dr. Vanessa de Veritch Woodside	Associate Professor, School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
Dr. Alex Miller	Assistant Teaching Professor, School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences

Thank you Bamford Foundation

Thanks to generous support from the Bamford Foundation, we were able to award twenty \$1,000 study abroad scholarships.

Join the Bamford Foundation in supporting our students, faculty, and staff

[Donate to the UW Tacoma OGA Fund Today](#)



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