The Center for Global Studies brings a world of possibilities to UW and the state. Our mission is to enhance international competencies at home in order to help prepare Wyoming students as well as faculty, communities, and businesses to compete and succeed in a global economy. We are excited to work with UW’s new leadership, President Laurie Nichols and Provost Kate Miller, to advance UW to the next level of excellence in internationally focused research in order to find solutions to complex global problems. We have a good start on this ambition with over forty student international research projects and two dozen faculty projects supported in the last two years. This work places us front and center in UW’s mission and upcoming strategic planning process to promote student success through its international fieldwork grants for students, seed money for faculty international research opportunities, and programming on campus and outreach to the state. You’ll see some highlights of this work throughout this newsletter. These opportunities are made possible by our internal partnerships and generous supporters like you. Two recent donor gifts have given us a great start to build sustainable funds for our programming. A gift from the John P. Ellbogen Foundation has established the new Ellbogen Endowment for Global Engagement. This gift qualified for a $100,000 state matching gift to create a new endowment totaling $250,000. Mary Ellbogen Garland notes, “in the small interconnected world in which we live it is important that Wyoming students have exposure to the rich and relevant hands-on experiences that international fieldwork provides. And, not only do students benefit, but many in communities throughout the state also gain insight into a wide variety of global issues as students present their new knowledge.” A legacy gift by former UW Trustee Dr. Tom Spicer and his wife Debe Spicer (pictured left with Jean Garrison and former Wyoming Governor and US Ambassador to Ireland Mike Sullivan and his wife Jane Sullivan) provides an investment in the future. It will build a strong base for sustainable funding for our faculty and student international experiences. Please consider partnering with us in 2016-17 as we continue our commitment to fund future projects and bring the world to Wyoming and Wyoming to the world.

Partnership Profile – CGS & Global and Area Studies

CGS partners with the Global and Area Studies program to provide the statewide Global Studies Lecture Series. Together we have established successful programming in 13 Wyoming communities with 30+ programs each year in Laramie and around the state (see statewide audience data below). Dr. David Messenger, Director of Global Area Studies, has been instrumental in coordinating human rights-focused programming on campus and around the state in cooperation with the Wyoming Humanities Council, as well as seeing that our senior visiting scholars have given public talks around Wyoming on the aftermath of Nepal’s earthquake (Dr. George Varuguese) and on the situation in the Middle East (former US Ambassador to Oman, Gary Grappo). Our highlight, however, remains showcasing the international fieldwork of UW students with presentations in seven communities last year and the World to Wyoming presentations given by National Geographic correspondent and UW write-in-residence Mark Jenkins (pictured right) that partners with Wyoming’s colleges. Most recently the program focused on Mark’s summit attempt of Burma’s Hkakabo Razi. Watch for World to Wyoming in Washington, DC and a new series across the state in March 2017! On campus, CGS helped to coordinate the fall 2016 visit of Dr. Peter Wittig, Ambassador to the United States from the Federal Republic of Germany, and co-hosted an International Relations in 2030 Workshop in partnership with the Free University of Berlin, which brought leading international relations scholars to Laramie in August. In cooperation with the School of Energy Resources, CGS continues to sponsor public forums on key issues in the energy transition and culture, identity, economic, and resource issues facing Wyoming and the West. Many of these events are available on our YouTube channel “uwcenterforglobalstudies” and information on upcoming events is available on our Facebook page and on the CGS website at www.uwyo.edu/globalcenter.
Student International Internships

As part of her undergraduate work in Agricultural Economics, Emily Sikorski from Pinedale travelled to Guatemala to complete a summer internship with a women’s agricultural cooperative near Lake Atitlan. In conjunction with the internship, she conducted a research project investigating the economic and social impact of local women’s agricultural associations and learned a great deal about women’s involvement in agricultural processes in the region. Madeleine Fitzchowan, a business student from from Edina, MN, spent the summer in Madrid, Spain working as a finance intern for Esferalia Capital which works primarily with individual investors. Simrik Neupane (2nd year student in the College of Law) from Thornton, CO spent the majority of her summer 2016 working for the non-profit Asia Foundation in Nepal tackling issues such as human trafficking, transitional justice, and building social awareness on a range of challenges facing Nepal. She notes, “thanks to CGS I was able to do something that I didn’t think was financially possible; furthering my professional career with an international legal experience.”

Graduate Students Researching Migration in Germany and West Africa

Denise Muro (MA in International Studies) from Denver interviewed refugees in and around Berlin, Germany to investigate how migrant expectations about migration differed from the realities they experienced once arriving in Germany. Jeremy Goldsmith (MA in International Studies) from Louisville, KY traveled to The Gambia, West Africa to investigate the causes of its migration exodus crisis. As he notes, this work in The Gambia allowed him to “document the uncharted out-migration phenomenon, where more than one percent of the population leaves annually.”

Education in India and Tortoises and Hares in East Africa

Sarah (Katie) Guffey (PhD in Education) from Springdale, NC traveled to Coimbatore, India to conduct comparative research on college and K-12 science curriculum. She notes, “this field grant allowed me to build relationships and collaborate with faculty from science disciplines from across the spectrum at Avinashilingam University. These partnerships with STEM faculty will facilitate future collaborations in my academic career at UW and professional career as a science teacher educator.” Bethann Merkle (MFA in Creative Writing) from Choteau, MT traveled to East Africa in order to connect with researchers and Kenyans to tell “the ecologically true story” of the tortoise and the hare. “CGS funding was critical to provide these invaluable in-person interviews and field observations – my work will now include indigenous lore and natural history explanations of tortoises and hares which I did not even anticipate investigating before traveling to Kenya. Indigenous knowledge is an avenue I will now explore when I visit Arizona’s Sonoran Desert this winter.”

Students Receive Top CGS Awards for Their Groundbreaking Research

CGS gives out three top awards each year – two $10,000 graduate fellowships and one undergraduate in-state tuition scholarship. Eric Nigh (MA in International Studies) from Cheyenne is the recipient of the 2017 Walsh Fellowship in Global Studies (previously he received a CGS-Wallop Fieldwork Award in summer 2016 for travel to Iraq). In spring 2017, he will complete his thesis project, which explores what improvements can be made to US development policy in Iraq. Yara Thomas (MS in Architectural Engineering) from Jackson is the recipient of the CGS-SERNielson Graduate Fellowship for 2017. Her work looks at innovative greenhouse designs from the Netherlands and their potential application in the US. Her project specifically seeks to build an efficient greenhouse in Lovell, WY that will be heated with waste heat from Lovell’s sugar beet plant. Jordan Brophy, a senior majoring in Chemistry from Wray, CO, is the CGS-SER Nielson Undergraduate Scholarship winner for 2016-17. She spent the summer researching nitrogen containing graphitic-like materials. These materials have the potential to be woven into next generation electronics, selective filtering, and catalysis in the research community, among other exciting applications!
Associate Professors Andrew Garner (Political Science) and Tom Seitz (Global and Area Studies), with seed money from a 2014 CGS grant, have been exploring the relationship between corruption and voting in emerging democracies. Travelling to Indonesia, the world’s largest Muslim democracy, they have completed elite interviews and their first local election survey. They have published one paper and have a second under review for publication and have written grant applications to expand their research through Indonesia’s presidential elections in 2019. New grant funding will provide support for future collaboration with Indonesian partners, additional surveys to give them a better picture of popular attitudes and expectations regarding democracy, and the means to expand their interviews with government agencies and bodies tasked with fighting corruption and cronyism in the electoral process. Seitz and Garner are pictured above along with their Indonesian collaborator, Dr. George Ikbal Tawwakal, meeting with officials of Indonesia’s Election Commission in Semarang, Indonesia.

Dr. Krista Lewellyn, Assistant Professor in Management and Marketing, is investigating how places such as the Aberdeenshire region of Scotland create entrepreneurial ecosystems to withstand global economic shocks. Like Wyoming, the Aberdeenshire region is an area whose economic development and entrepreneurial activity has depended on a strong local oil and gas market. Although they have faced a two-year decline in commodity prices, their entrepreneurial ventures have helped them remain resilient to economic downturns. In summer 2016, Krista interviewed stakeholders to find out what makes this region so resilient – a project with direct applications to Wyoming’s situation.

Dr. Derek Scasta, Assistant Professor and Extension Rangeland Specialist in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, has completed the first portion of his Brazil-Wyoming research exchange. He and his partner, Dr. Gerhard Overbeck from the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, are conducting comparative fieldwork in North and South America. So far, they have examined sites in the sagebrush steppe and mixed-grass prairies in Wyoming. Soon, Scasta will travel to Brazil to examine its comparable rangeland. They have a joint PhD student involved in this work and anticipate a long and fruitful project comparing ecosystems across the Americas.
Giving to the Center for Global Studies

We hope you will consider a contribution to the Center for Global Studies at UW to support international work for our students and faculty. Here is my/our gift to make a difference: $ ____________

**ONLINE:** Make a payment using the donate button on the CGS website at [www.uwyo.edu/globalcenter](http://www.uwyo.edu/globalcenter)

**PHONE:** Call the University of Wyoming Foundation during normal business hours:
(307) 766-6300 or (888) 831-7795.

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Please be sure to indicate that your gift is for the Center for Global Studies within the College of A&S

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Thank you!

* Please make your check payable to the UW Foundation and indicate Center for Global Studies in the memo line.

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