

WYO GLOBAL INSIGHTS



Global
Engagement
Office

SPRING 2026

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*WyoGlobal Insights, Spring 2026
Organized and written by Mary Barnes
Edited by Gregory Ronco*

Dear students, faculty, staff, and friends of WyoGlobal,

It has been an exciting spring for international connections at UW. This issue features voices from faculty, students, staff, alumni, and visiting scholars, each reminding us that global engagement is not something separate, extra, or exceptional, but rather part of very fabric of what makes UW such an amazing place to study and work.

I would like to thank everyone who gathered recently to celebrate the 2026 Excellence in Global Engagement Awards. We received a record number of outstanding nominations this year. I'd also like to take one more opportunity to thank President Seidel for co-sponsoring the Excellence Awards and, indeed, for his constant support for global initiatives.

Countless students, staff, and faculty members participate in creating our globally engaged university. From advancing research collaborations to expanding student mobility and strengthening institutional partnerships, our collective efforts continue to connect Wyoming and the world.

As we look towards summer, we're excited to send 20 Global Seminars abroad, led by faculty from eight colleges and schools as well as the LeaRN program.

As always, we're eager to hear your ideas about how we can grow this work. I hope the stories in this edition inspire you to reach out! I'm wishing everyone a summer full of great work, expanded horizons, and hopefully a little rest.

Isa Helfgott
Vice Provost for
Global Engagement



Since its inception in 2007, the Cheney Study-Abroad Scholarship Fund, which includes the Cheney Study-Abroad Grants and Cheney First Gen Abroad Scholarship Program, has given thousands of students the opportunity to experience the world beyond Wyoming.



[Discover the impact of studying abroad](#)

A LEGACY OF GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY

The Richard B. and Lynn V. Cheney Study-Abroad Scholarship Fund reflects a long-standing commitment to global learning at the University of Wyoming. Dick Cheney, an alumnus of UW, and his wife Lynne Cheney helped establish the scholarship through a \$1.8 million gift that was matched by the State of Wyoming, creating one of the largest study-abroad endowments at a public land-grant university.

Their support also helped create the Cheney International Center, now home to the Global Engagement Office, which serves as a hub for international programs on campus. Since the scholarship's founding, the fund has opened the door for thousands of UW students to pursue global learning experiences around the world.

Since its inception, the fund has awarded more than \$4.58 million in scholarships supporting international study, research, and cross-cultural experiences for UW over 3,000 students in dozens of countries.



[Learn more about Cheney scholarships and other study abroad funding opportunities](#)

CHENEY SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT



\$4.58M
awarded
since 2009



18 years
supporting
global
experiences
for UW
students



\$429K
highest
single-year
funding



3,000+
students
supported
through this
scholarship

BUDDHISM IN THAILAND

By Weston Devine

Over the 2026 J-Term, I studied abroad in Thailand while taking the course “Honors Buddhism in Thailand.” I am grateful to the Honors College for financing much of my trip, and to Dr. Kate Hartmann for taking me with her and teaching me so much. My experience in Thailand impacted me greatly as a student at UW. After my first semester, I was feeling burnt out and unmotivated for the spring semester. While in Thailand, however, I was reminded that learning is not always about sitting on a computer in the library, but also about getting out of one’s comfort zone, trying new experiences, and immersing oneself in others’ perspectives.

Beyond being impacted as a student, this trip impacted my personal development by bringing an opportunity to make new friendships while bonding with peers over a shared sense of humor. While in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, I loved experiencing the local nightlife because I got to see how people my age from Thailand enjoyed their free time. I also especially enjoyed getting to see elephants up close at a nature park in Chiang Mai.

Weston Devine is a freshman in the Honors College at UW.



View from a street in Chiang Mai



[Learn more about the “Buddhism in Thailand” course](#)



Weston with elephants at a nature reserve



Traditional Thai market

J-TERM IN JORDAN

By Arielle Coleman



On the streets of Amman



[Learn about the MENA Club](#)



[Learn more about CIEL](#)

This past January, I had the pleasure of studying abroad in Jordan with UW, in collaboration with the Center for International Experiential Learning (CIEL). We explored Amman, the North Valley, Ajloun, the Dead Sea, the Golan Heights, Petra, Wadi Rum, and Aqaba. Amidst these adventures, we also met with guest speakers teaching about issues of refugees and migration, narcotics, environmental concerns, and the conflict evolving from Israel-Palestine politics. This experiential learning, paired with the speakers, really enriched my experience. I was able to hear personal stories and meet government officials and peace activists in their element, while also seeing historic sites or workplaces that humanized their perspectives.

This program had an immense impact on me because I am minoring in Middle East and North Africa studies and study Arabic. While I take many classes involving Middle Eastern politics, culture, and identity, it is not enough to learn solely by textbooks. Seeing the cultural and identity dynamics in person helped me grasp histories and conflicts that I otherwise had difficulty understanding. This trip reiterated my goals of working in a capacity that involves the Middle Eastern region—whether that be law, the foreign service, or a nonprofit organization. I returned to UW with a new sense of purpose and have even decided to spend my next semester abroad in Jordan in an intensive Arabic language program. Ultimately, this study abroad grounded me and affirmed my goal of pursuing a career that draws on a specialization in the Middle East.

Arielle Coleman is a junior in the School of Politics, Public Affairs, and International Studies and is the outgoing president of the Middle East North Africa Club.

Riding camels where *Lawrence of Arabia* was filmed.



NEPAL: WILD & WORKING LANDS

By John Koprowski and Peter Parolin

During J-Term, we led a group of students to Nepal to study conservation and community engagement. Everything about our class involved the participation of community partners, scientists, and conservationists who were eager to share their passions with our students, and to show their very specific model of community-based conservation in Nepal.

Learning from practitioners is so important for students to get the chance to see how lessons from the classroom get applied in real-world settings. The immersion of students into a place that is so wildly different from any place in which they have been is impactful. At first glance, the experience is almost disorienting, but local experts and community partners help begin to focus and make sense of it. We see challenges that are familiar and have parallels with Wyoming (substitute tigers for grizzlies and chital for mule deer) and recognize both shared experiences and different approaches.



The class visits the Wildlife Hospital in Sauraha, near Chitwan National Park.

Students grappled with the perennial questions of how humans and wildlife interact and how to create structures that allow co-existence while protecting biodiversity and allowing human development. We were able to learn about the challenges of life with megafauna like Asian elephants, one-horned rhinoceroses, common leopards, and sloth bears, and saw how park design and forest management were critical to coexistence.

Moments like gliding silently down a river with kingfishers flying overhead and crocodiles sunning themselves on the shore, the first sight of the Himalayas shimmering in the distance, and the excitement of seeing a tiger on a wildlife camera capture the magic and meaning of the experience.

John Koprowski is the dean of the Haub School of ENR, and Peter Parolin is the dean of the Honors College.



Haub Tomé scholars show their UW spirit after a visit to the vulture restaurant.



[Learn more about the Nepal Global Seminar](#)



Crossing a river in Chitwan National Park.

LYRICAL LEARNING: LONDON TO LIVERPOOL

By Mary Barnes

Every year, Dr. Kent Drummond, a professor in the English Department, leads a global seminar on "Rock and Roll Tourism: The Beatles and Beyond" that blends music, culture, and history through the lens of pop culture icons like the Beatles. Reflecting on his interest in this topic, Drummond shared, "I love the arts, especially music, and I am uniquely interested in how artists stay relevant throughout the passage of time."

The global seminar takes students to Liverpool and London, where they explore the origins and cultural impact of instrumental artists from the area. "It is such a joy to see the students exploring Liverpool and its vibrant culture," Dr. Drummond explained, describing visits to the Beatles' childhood homes and landmarks that inspired their legendary music, including Strawberry Field and the River Mersey.

Students spend the second half of the seminar in London, diving into the rich history and marketing strategies used to keep icons like Charles Dickens and William Shakespeare alive. Dr. Drummond said the most meaningful moments come from student growth: "Seeing the students build self-confidence as they navigate a world-class city is a joy to watch."



Kent Drummond and students in front of the Cavern Club.



[Learn about the Rock and Roll Tourism global seminar](#)



Visiting Paul McCartney's childhood home.

This summer, Dr. Drummond will lead an additional alumni study tour, offering unique experiences like an evening with Pattie Boyd, model and former spouse of George Harrison and Eric Clapton. Per Dr. Drummond, "There's a sense of vitality reminiscing the '60s, creating a sense of adventure for alumni." Other excursions include a West End show, tea at Kensington Palace, and tours of multiple museums, markets, and homes.

Kent Drummond is a professor in the English Department, and former professor in Communication & Journalism and Marketing.



[Discover the British Rock Stars alumni tour](#)

CONTINUED UW ACTIVITIES IN TUNISIA

By Caroline McCracken-Flesher, Director, CGS

In May 2025, UW faculty studied cultural heritage and tourism in Tunisia. Wyoming and Tunisia are both home to remarkable natural and cultural resources, but the challenges of distance, weather, and tourism can hold us back. Sara Ghezzi (Haub), Paul Flesher (American Heritage Center), Rachel Sailor (Art History), Stephanie Anderson (International Studies) and myself scoped out the collaboration and teaching landscape.

In December 2025, UW colleagues explored research and teaching collaborations for stewarding rural environments in Tunisia and Wyoming, where we have a surprising amount in common. Ginger Paige (Ecology), Bledar Bisha (Animal Science), Thomas Boothby (Molecular Biology) and Jeff Hamerlinck (Computing) built partnerships with universities, research institutes, training schools, and businesses.

The Tunisia-Wyoming State Partnership, cultivated by the Wyoming National Guard, is supported by the US Embassy in Tunisia and by UW to build research and entrepreneurial partnerships across the country.



[Learn more about the State Partnership](#)



Sharing a piece of Wyoming with our interpreter, Anouar Mohamed Boujidane.

In February 2026, UW hosted Mohamed Malouche, Managing Partner at Deloitte Afrique and Chair of the Tunisian American Young Professionals. Mohamed has been a fixed point in UW's work in Tunisia, along with Tunisia's embassy staff and our Wyoming National Guard. We were delighted for Mohamed to headline our February Tunisia Showcase. Through continued meetings with President Seidel, the Research and Economic Development Division, faculty, staff, and students, he is continuing to advance our entrepreneurial and community connections in Tunisia.



Mohamed Malouche with UW Tunisian students and scholars

PARTNERSHIPS: FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

By Isa Helfgott, Vice Provost, Global Engagement

Partnerships with international universities and research institutes are a cornerstone of UW's global footprint. This past January, President Seidel joined me in leading a UW delegation to Berlin's Freie Universität, UW's third such visit since the partnership began in 2018, renewing our partnership and seeking to identify new opportunities for collaboration. The visit included meetings with FU's "Contestations of the Liberal Script" (SCRIPTS) Cluster of Excellence—a research powerhouse exploring the global pressures on liberal democracy—and researchers in the physical sciences and computing. We subsequently hosted a gathering at UW, drawing nearly twenty faculty from various departments.

In 2019, SCRIPTS designated UW as an international strategic partner, providing a framework for research collaboration. Professors Tanja Börzel and Thomas Risse at FU joined with UW's professors Stephanie Anderson and Jean Garrison to investigate how liberal norms and institutions are being contested in the United States. With SCRIPTS entering its second funding period, we're looking for new pathways to expand joint research opportunities. We hope to organize a workshop for UW and FU researchers in Wyoming later in 2026 to map out joint projects under the broad SCRIPTS umbrella.



UW and Freie Universität Berlin
SCRIPTS faculty in January 2026

Connect with the WyoGlobal team if you're interested in updates about the upcoming joint workshop or other opportunities to get involved with FU and SCRIPTS:
global@uwyo.edu

PARTNERSHIPS: BRAZIL

By Warren Crawford, Assoc. Director, Global Engagement

UW is advancing its global engagement strategy through new partnership discussions with leading state university systems in Brazil. Brazil has made significant recent national investments in higher education, particularly through Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES), which supports graduate education, research, and international collaboration. UW is currently exploring collaborations with two major Brazilian state systems: the universities of Mato Grosso and Paraná. These regions share key economic parallels with Wyoming, including strong ties to agriculture, tourism, and natural resource industries.

Our recent visit to Brazil highlighted how welcoming and globally minded Brazilian institutions are. Every person we met expressed enthusiasm for collaboration and a strong interest in building connections with UW. We're optimistic about the future and the positive relationships we are building in Brazil.



UW's Dr. Tristan Wallhead and Warren
Crawford with Dr. Flavio Medeiros of
Federal University of Lavras

LANGUAGE TRANSFORMED

By Carson Krueger

My Arabic journey started in 2021 when I enrolled in a residential STARTALK Arabic Summer Camp here at the University of Wyoming. I'll be honest, I originally signed up just to get away from my family for a few weeks. I had no idea it would change the entire direction of my life.

I fell in love with the language almost immediately. I came back for the camp again in 2023, and shortly after, as a junior in high school, I dual-enrolled at UW to take Arabic and Middle Eastern politics classes. After graduating high school, I received a State Department scholarship to study abroad in Amman, Jordan. Living with a host family and using Arabic every single day was the most transformative experience I've ever had. I went back to Jordan the following summer as a research assistant and again most recently over winter break. Every trip deepened my love for the region and its people.

This spring, I was awarded a Critical Language Scholarship and will be heading to Meknes, Morocco to continue building my proficiency. It feels like a culmination of everything, from learning the alphabet at 14 years old to now.



Volunteering with a local charity at a refugee camp health clinic.



Touring Petra, Jordan.

None of this would have been possible without my professor and mentor, Eric Nigh. He was at that first summer camp, patiently teaching me the Arabic alphabet, and has been in my corner ever since. Being able to sit across from him now and hold a conversation in Arabic is one of the most rewarding feelings, as he has seen every step of this journey.

I am so grateful for where this language has taken me, and I cannot wait to see where it leads next.

Carson Krueger is a senior at UW, in the School of Politics, Public Affairs, and Political Science.



[Learn more about Critical Language Scholarships](#)



[Learn more about the YSEALI PFP Program](#)

A YSEALI EXPERIENCE: RATHA

The Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Professional Fellows Program (PFP) is a U.S. government-funded exchange program that brings emerging leaders from Southeast Asia to the U.S. for short-term professional placements with organizations in fields like civic engagement, economic development, environmental sustainability, and governance. YSEALI strengthens leadership skills, promotes civic engagement, and builds professional networks between Southeast Asia and the U.S.

This year, YSEALI selected Ratha Sokunthea and Amirah Angullia as PFP fellows at UW. Ratha Sokunthea is a Teacher Team Leader at Pour un Sourire d'Enfant (PSE) in Cambodia. During his fellowship, he worked with Josh Moro, Assistant Director of UW's English Language Center, and recently had a reciprocal exchange approved by YSEALI for them to continue their work in Cambodia, in May 2026. Their project focuses on Cambodian English teacher and student workshops for English language civic engagement in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



On the PSE campus in Cambodia

“ I am a Teacher Team Leader at PSE, which is an NGO supporting disadvantaged students in Cambodia. I was selected for the YSEALI Professional Fellows Program in fall 2025. In May, I will implement a civic engagement project that integrates community awareness into English language learning. Through this experience, I hope to enhance my leadership capacity, build lasting partnerships with YSEALI fellows and UW, and strengthen meaningful community engagement initiatives in Cambodia.

Ratha Sokunthea, 2025 YSEALI PFP Fellow at UW



At French Creek in Snowy Range



Ratha and Josh at the AmCam Exchange in Cambodia.

A YSEALI EXPERIENCE: AMIRAH

By Amirah Angullia

I am an English teacher in Malaysia, with experience working closely with underprivileged students in the country as well as now serving students from foreign countries. These experiences helped me understand how education is never the same for everyone. Getting to experience and learn from Wyoming's community firsthand felt like a lifetime opportunity.

Wyoming's rural education landscape mirrors the underserved communities I taught in Borneo. At UW, I found myself in classrooms with pre-service teachers, not just exchanging ideas but sharing stories of rural schools, under-resourced classrooms, and the quiet resilience of students. In the Literacy Research and Clinic Center (LRRC), I sat alongside tutors and students during after-school sessions and learned how they create spaces where every child, regardless of background, feels seen, supported, and capable.

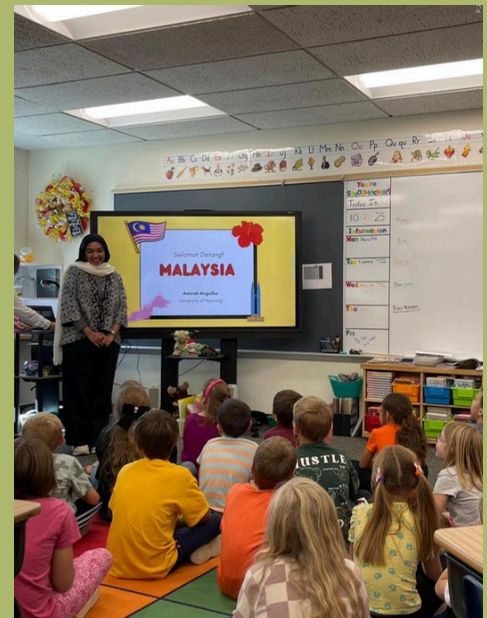
Beyond the classroom, the people made Wyoming unforgettable. From meaningful conversations with PhD candidates to the genuine warmth of the Global Engagement community, I felt welcomed, supported, and inspired. I immersed myself in campus life. Whether through organized programs or simple, everyday interactions, I found more than just participation—I found belonging. It was in the laughter at Wakeup Wednesday, the encouragement in conversations, and the openness of the community that UW transformed from a host institution into a place I could truly call home.

This fellowship didn't just shape my time at UW, it reshaped how I see the world. I would like to thank UW for allowing me to have this experience!

Amirah Angullia, 2025 YSEALI PFP Fellow at UW



Amirah during her first week in Laramie



A cultural-sharing lesson for students at Spring Creek Elementary School



Amirah and Ratha, along with several UW international students, take part in a fencing session.

GLOBAL STUDENT AMBASSADORS

By Abby Lozano, Coordinator, ISS



2026 GSAs lead an information session for incoming students

The International Students and Scholars (ISS) office tries to ease the challenging transition for international students by employing Global Student Ambassadors (GSA) for the weeks prior to the start of classes in the fall and spring semesters. GSAs are current international students who have experiences navigating Laramie and UW; they have experienced the highs and lows international students face, they are versed in local resources, and are leaders within the UW community.

Interested international students apply for GSA positions in the fall. They are asked to provide information about the struggles they have faced in coming to UW, resources they find helpful, and improvements to programming that makes transitioning easier. Our selected GSAs come from across different colleges, degree levels, and countries to help us best welcome our diverse international student population.



[Learn more about Global Student Ambassadors](#)

International students are a vital part of the UW community, bringing diverse cultures, perspectives, and global awareness to campus. As they navigate their life in Laramie, many face cultural and social adjustments that can make their academic journey challenging.

“GSAs are an invaluable part of the ISS team and are at the forefront of building a home away from home for all incoming international students.”

Abby Lozano

GSA'S AT A GLANCE



15+ countries represented among GSAs



Dozens of new international students supported each semester



Help with campus navigation, resources, and transition



Current international students, serving as peer leaders

GSAs support students in a variety of ways, including guiding new students around campus to their departments and administrative offices like Human Resources, answering questions about campus and the Laramie community, and more. They help with the ISS in-person welcome session and sit on a panel to discuss their experiences at UW. Each year, we have reports that GSAs have created lasting friendships with our new students. They provide firsthand experience and advice to incoming students, and help new students build immediate connections to resources, staff, and faculty on campus.

HEAR FROM OUR 2026 GSA'S

Raka Kararbo: Papua, Indonesia

Junior majoring in Construction Management

My favorite thing about the GSA program is the opportunity to connect with students from different cultures and help create a welcoming environment for international students. Being a GSA has impacted me by improving my communication and leadership skills, and it has helped me grow more confident in supporting and guiding new students.



Danial Adrang: Iran

PhD student in Curriculum and Instruction

My favorite aspect of the GSA program is the opportunity to support new international students during their transition to UW. Serving as a Global Student Ambassador has strengthened my leadership, communication, and mentorship skills. It has also deepened my appreciation for the diverse experiences international students bring to UW.



Temmy Obajinmi: Nigeria

PhD student in Public Humanities

My favorite thing about the GSA program is the opportunity to support and guide new international students. I love being someone they can talk to, especially during their first few weeks when everything feels new, overwhelming, and unfamiliar. Being a GSA has impacted me in so many positive ways. It has strengthened my leadership skills, improved my communication, and helped me build meaningful connections across cultures. Most importantly, it has reminded me that community matters.



Shifa Ijaz: Pakistan

PhD student in Public Humanities

My favorite thing about the GSA program is the sense of connection it creates. It brings together students from different parts of the world and reminds us that we are not alone in navigating a new academic and cultural environment. Being a GSA has strengthened my sense of responsibility and empathy. As someone who once arrived in the U.S. with questions, uncertainties, and hopes, it feels meaningful to now support others through that same transition.



Anaís Canto: Panama

Freshman in Environmental System Science

My experience this semester has changed drastically just because I participate as a GSA. I cannot emphasize how much happier and better my life is right now. First, my self-esteem has improved significantly. Second, the people I met are my friends now. I have a good connection with my coworkers and people recognize me and always say hi. I can tell that my schedule is full of pending meetings with friends, and I never thought that would be a possibility for me. I am grateful, and I cannot wait to meet the new students in the fall.



UW ALUMNI IN MONGOLIA

Dr. John Koprowski routinely leads UW alumni on study tours around the world. Hear more from Mary and Rich Guenzel, who participated in the trip to Mongolia in 2024.



Q What was your biggest takeaway from your tour in Mongolia?

R *I was most surprised by the feeling of familiarity among the diverse and wide-open landscapes we visited in Mongolia. Many sites reminded me of places in Wyoming, but with different cultural influences and without a lot of infrastructure like roads, fences, power lines, and development. Many of the wildlife species we saw were “life listers.” I was surprised by the diversity of species within groups such as raptors and small mammals compared to similar habitats in Wyoming.*

Q What was your favorite memory from the trip?

R *There were so many different experiences, but I would have to say that our visit to Hustai National Park to see Tahki (an endangered wild horse) was exceptional. It was one of our first stops out in the wilds of Mongolia, our first stay in gers, and our first opportunity to learn about national park management and wildlife research in Mongolia. We observed a wolf, Mongolian gazelle, many raptors, and other native wildlife species.*

Q What has been the greatest impact for you from the trip?

M *It was one of the most incredible trips I have ever been on! I loved the exposure to a different culture and ways of approaching life. People are people everywhere you go. We all face many of the same issues. The different approaches of Mongolian culture in dealing with those issues were fascinating.*



Photos courtesy of Mary and Rich Guenzel

Q How was your experience with John Koprowski?

M *Absolutely wonderful! He prepared us well prior to the trip and was a wealth of information throughout the trip. Despite his humility, John is a rockstar among the international conservation community. We are fortunate to have someone of his stature as a guide.*



[Learn about the upcoming summer 2026 Mongolia alumni tour](#)

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

By Jill Johnson, Director, ISS

Each spring, university staff provide detailed data on the international students attending their institutions, including degree level, country of origin, program of study, marital status, and much more. The official report from NAFSA is released during International Education Week the following November.

At home in Wyoming, international students contributed \$25.5 million to the state in 2024-2025, according to the most recent NAFSA Economic Value Report. In addition to the financial contribution, the 967 international students in Wyoming supported 160 direct and indirect jobs in communities where those students live and study. In Laramie, home of UW, international students supported 136 jobs and contributed \$18.8 million.

The financial contributions made by our international students are important, but secondary to the groundbreaking research, classroom participation, and cultural perspectives they bring with them. We know the presence of international students on a university campus is vital to a rich academic community, providing a unique viewpoint due to differing backgrounds, languages, school systems, and socio-economic status.



[Explore the Wyoming NAFSA report](#)



UW international students and scholars touring the Tetons in October 2025.

COLLEGE OF LAW GOLTEN FELLOWSHIP

By Adelaide Meyers



Addie Meyers

The Robert J. Golten Fellowship honors the late Bob Golten, a public interest lawyer who specialized in international human rights advocacy. My job is twofold. I work with the College of Law, Center for International Human Rights Law & Advocacy, and with the International Students & Scholars office in the Cheney International Center.

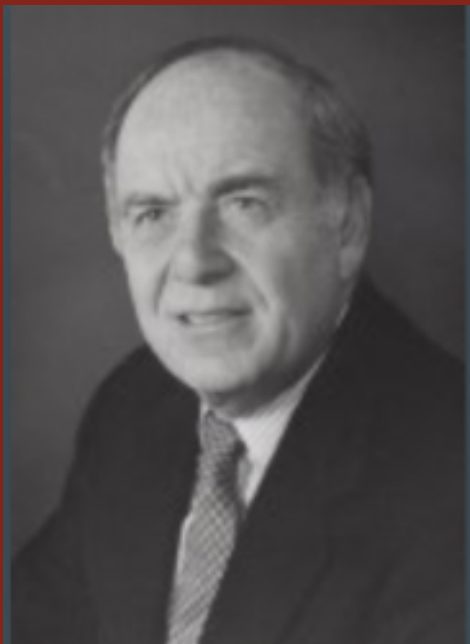
At the College of Law I support the International Human Rights Clinic with advocacy projects, facilitate the Bernstein International Human Rights Summer Internship program, and assist the Phillip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition team. As a Wyoming law student, I traveled to Uganda on a clinic project and Chile on a study abroad program, and was a member of the Jessup team throughout law school (2017-2020).

The clinic's projects are as varied as the parts of the world they concern. As a fellow, I am currently helping to publish a report on seafood slavery in Thailand. Together with two law school professors, we coached a team through a memorandum of international law as applied to the facts of a case before the moot International Court of Justice. Oralists are now building their debate skills before attending the U.S. competition.

For the Bernstein Summer Internship program I work one-on-one with law students who want to explore a career in international human rights with hands-on work abroad, helping them make contacts and ensure the experience is beneficial.

At ISS, I help international students and faculty with legal questions, researching answers and making referrals when needed. I enjoy the teaching parts of my job the most, helping people understand what will happen next and why rules exist, and I feel so lucky to be trusted to guide some of the brightest, most interesting people who come to Wyoming from all over the globe.

Adelaide Meyers is the current Golten Fellow in the College of Law.



Robert Golten



[History of the Golten Fellowship](#)



[Phillip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition](#)



[Center for International Human Rights Law & Advocacy](#)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: A STUDENT ATHLETE'S JOURNEY

By Mia Xiaomei Yu

Since arriving in Laramie, I have had a deeply enriching experience, both academically and athletically, as an international student-athlete. I wanted to step outside of my comfort zone and experience something new and meaningful. Sport has always been a powerful way to build resilience, discipline, and character, and Nordic skiing requires courage, endurance, and mental strength. I also wanted to develop a broader international perspective and immerse myself in American academic life and culture.



Three SUS students—Kelly, Mia, and Irene—after their first sprint race.

Academically, I have taken Professor Rachel Watson's Endurance Mountain Sports course. In this class, I studied the physiological mechanisms of endurance performance, particularly energy metabolism, as well as psychological principles related to athletic performance. What impressed me most is that the course is designed to align closely with our daily training. The theories we learn in the classroom are immediately tested and applied during practices and competitions, helping me truly understand what it means to put theory into practice.

Athletically, I feel incredibly fortunate to have Christi Boggs and Rachel Watson as my coaches. They have witnessed my journey from repeatedly stumbling on skis to standing on the starting line and competing in races. At the same time, my teammates have offered tremendous support and created a strong sense of belonging. Overall, this journey has strengthened my professional knowledge, mental resilience, and physical endurance, and helped me discover my own courage.

Mia is a student in the Sociology of Sport at Shanghai University of Sport, and is in the Division of Kinesiology-Nordic Ski Team program.



Mia at sunset while training at Grand Mesa



[Learn about the UW International Nordic Ski Training Program](#)



Mia's coach, Christi, giving Mia a hug after her first 15 km race.

WYOGLOBAL STAFF SPOTLIGHT: DR. CAROLINE MCCRACKEN-FLESHER



Dr. Caroline McCracken-Flesher

Caroline McCracken-Flesher is a Professor of English and Director of the Center for Global Studies (CGS) at UW. Originally from Northern Ireland and educated at Edinburgh, Oxford, and Brown Universities, she specializes in Scottish studies, nation theory, and heritage tourism. For CGS, she's piloted initiatives such as the UW in Scotland program and leads our developing collaborations in Tunisia. She is deeply involved in expanding global opportunities for both faculty and students.

Caroline recently traveled to Morocco as a Fulbright Specialist, collaborating with Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakesh on emerging pedagogies, addressing the always-changing knowledge UW works hard to support through strategic teaching. She has also recently received the National Tartan Day Award, which Scottish Coalition USA presents to one person each year in recognition of significant contributions to Scottish heritage and culture in the U.S.



Caroline with the students at Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakesh, Morocco.



[Read more about Caroline's Fulbright Specialist work in Morocco](#)

“*UW gives me the space to innovate in my research and the encouragement to connect research to community. Working in CGS allows me to share the opportunities I have enjoyed with my colleagues and students, and to open new doors for UW. CGS has been fortunate to work with inspirational, like-minded donors to turn our goals for UW into realities for faculty and students. Of all my roles at UW, serving as CGS Director has got to be my favorite. Our work is so full of hope every day.*”

Caroline McCracken-Flesher

2026 EXCELLENCE IN GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AWARD WINNERS

By Gregory Ronco

The Excellence in Global Engagement Awards celebrate UW faculty, staff, and students whose work strengthens and supports UW around the world. This year's awardees are Christopher Akurugu, Mollie Hand, and Dr. Stephanie Anderson. They, along with a number of shortlisted nominees, were celebrated at a dinner on April 28.

WyoGlobal also celebrated the global leadership of President Ed Seidel, whose efforts have guided and inspired global engagement across campus during his two terms.



Dr. Mark Peterson shares an anecdote about Christopher's global and community leadership on campus.



President Ed Seidel with Mollie Hand, Stephanie Anderson, and VP Isa Helfgott.



[Read about the 2026 Excellence in Global Engagement Award Winners](#)

SPECIAL THANKS

Petra Heinz, our Graduate ESL Coordinator in the English Language Center (ELC), is retiring after an inspiring and productive career with UW and in the ELC. She spearheaded our programming in not only English but also intercultural learning and teaching development, in addition to leading the International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Training Workshop Series during her time here.

Mary Barnes, WyoGlobal's graduate assistant for the past two years, just graduated with a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling. Mary has been a steadfast team member for the past two years and is—among many accomplishments—the original creator of this newsletter.

We will miss both Petra and Mary, and wish them the best in all things to come.



Petra with her ITA students and Mary with ISS Coordinator Abby Lozano.

CONNECT WITH WYOGLOBAL

Center for Global Studies

(307) 766-3889

cgs@uwyo.edu

Students: Offers grants, fellowships, and internships for international research, sponsored by UW donors; showcases student work.

Faculty: Offers funding for international research; builds faculty cohorts focused on global regions; supports applications to external awards (Fulbright) and grants; showcases globally-significant research.

Community: Brings international research to the community; advances international projects around the state; builds community engagement opportunities; advances Wyoming/Global university partnerships.

Education Abroad

(307) 766-3677

uwyoabd@uwyo.edu

Students: Manages credit-bearing study abroad, exchange, and research opportunities; coordinates funding opportunities and academic internship opportunities for international study and research.

Faculty: Oversees faculty-led study abroad programs; supports faculty in program development and facilitation.

English Language Center

(307) 766-3631

elc@uwyo.edu

Students: Runs Intensive English Program, English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses, TA and RA Training Workshops.

Faculty: Teaches English language classes available to visiting faculty.

Community: Creates and disseminates resources for international students and their families.

International Students & Scholars

(307) 766-5193

uwglobal@uwyo.edu

Students: Provides direct immigration support on F and J visas, supports educational programming, organizes and guides community support.

Faculty: Provides faculty support in working with international students; coordinates faculty communication and resources across departments.

Community: Supports international community-building throughout Laramie and Wyoming.

VP of Global Engagement

(307) 766-3151

global@uwyo.edu

Students: Showcases international work, provides international collaboration support.

Faculty: Coordinates faculty and university international research and collaboration support, partnership guidance and development, provides funding opportunities for partnering and site development.

Community: Oversees alumni study tours, develops community engagement in international programming.