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*WyoGlobal Insights, Spring 2025*  
*Organized and written by Mary Barnes*  
*Edited by Gregory Ronco*

Dear students, faculty, staff, and friends of Global Engagement at the University of Wyoming,

Welcome to the new WyoGlobal Insights newsletter! Thank you for taking the time to browse through highlights of UW's recent global activity.

We take tremendous pride in UW being a global university, from the international students and scholars who study and work at UW, to the global impact of our research, to the international opportunities our departments foster for all in Wyoming. The hard work of nurturing connections with institutions, colleagues, students, and businesses around the world is crucial to UW's missions of preparing our students for success in their future careers and producing research that addresses Wyoming's grand challenges.

While global currents are difficult to predict just now, WyoGlobal continues to look forward and outward. We welcome the best and brightest to UW, and celebrate the rich mix of culture and perspectives of each member of our community. We launch our faculty and students around the world to learn, teach, and build knowledge that comes back to Wyoming in countless ways. In this newsletter, you'll find examples of faculty, alumni, and students who are going global, with insights into the transformative impact global experiences have at home. We also want to hear your stories, aspirations, and concerns, so please connect with us. Go Pokes!

Sincerely,

Isa Helfgott  
Vice Provost for  
Global Engagement

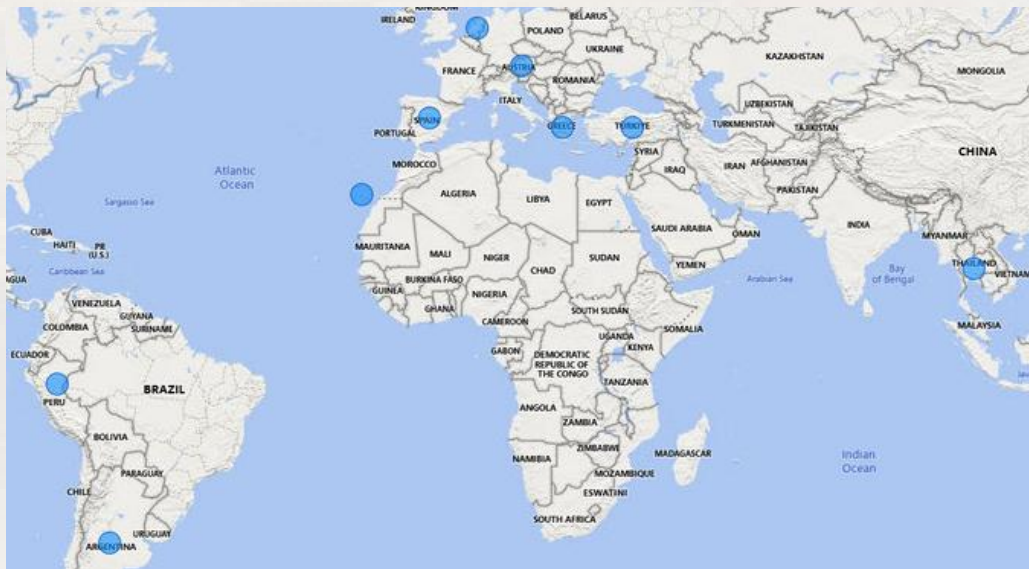


This year, UW developed and ran nine J-Term faculty-led study abroad programs, sending 130 students around the world—our largest J-Term to date.

## Destinations

- Thailand
- Spain
- Patagonia
- Canary Islands
- Greece
- Turkey
- Austria
- Netherlands
- Peru

## J-TERM FACULTY-LED PROGRAMS



“The January Term faculty-led study abroad programs at UW offer students a unique opportunity to earn three credits before the spring semester even begins, without adding extra tuition costs. These shorter, focused programs are ideal for students with demanding academic schedules. Overall, J-Term programs make study abroad so much more accessible!

Shelley Jewell, Director, Education Abroad



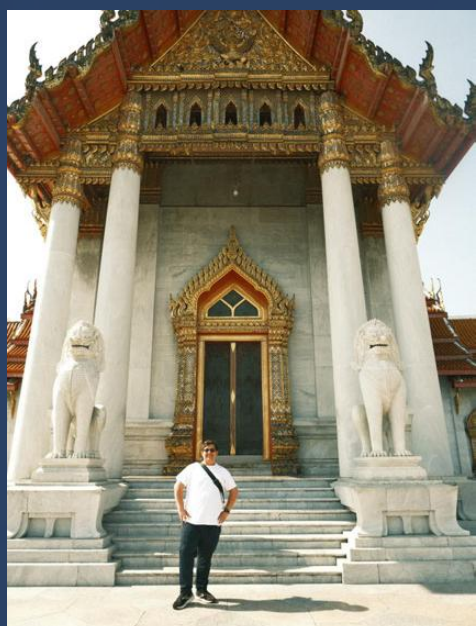
Submit a proposal:  
[uwoyo.edu/uwoyoabroad/faculty-advisors/develop-program](https://uwoyo.edu/uwoyoabroad/faculty-advisors/develop-program)



UW students outside Wat Saket, the Temple of the Golden Mount

“This past J-Term [January 2025], I was incredibly fortunate to go on a study abroad with Dr. Kate Hartmann to Thailand. Being able to learn about a culture completely different from my own and how to respectfully engage with Buddhist traditions was eye-opening, and will benefit me in my future international career.

Noah Riffée, UW student



Noah Riffée at Wat Benchamabophit Dusitwanaram (the Marble Temple)

# RESEARCH IN PANAMA: A STUDENT'S JOURNEY STUDYING TROPICAL BIRDS

By Erin Stewart

I didn't pay much attention to birds for the first two decades of my life. Instead, I preferred to spend my time looking at trees, flowers, and rocks. Then, during my last year of college, I went on a couple of bird walks, read a couple papers, and my interest in bird song was sparked.

I wasn't interested in just any bird song—I was interested in female bird song, as it is widespread but historically understudied.

A few years later, I moved to Laramie, Wyoming to pursue my graduate education. This might be the last place you would expect to go to study tropical birds, but with funding from the Center for Global Studies, I was given the opportunity to travel to Panama for six months, between 2022 and 2023. There, I was able to study the singing behavior of male and female chestnut-backed antbirds during territorial defense.

I am grateful for the opportunity this research abroad gave me. I hope to use this knowledge in the future and to apply the skills I have gained in acoustic ecology to the conservation and management of wildlife populations.

Acoustic communication is not just important for birds—it is also used by mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and even fish. The ability to learn about the presence, abundance, activity, and demographic characteristics of species based on sound alone has great potential to enable rapid monitoring of animal populations as they respond to global changes.

Erin Stewart is a PhD candidate and lab assistant in Zoology & Physiology. She conducted her research in Panama, in 2022-23.



Erin Stewart banding a chestnut-backed antbird



UW research on species interactions in Panama:  
[uwagnews.com/army-ants-birds-species-interactions-panama/](https://uwagnews.com/army-ants-birds-species-interactions-panama/)



Spread wing of a chestnut-backed antbird



Available grant opportunities to support international research from CGS:  
[uwo.edu/globalcenter/research-grant-opps/](https://uwo.edu/globalcenter/research-grant-opps/)

# ICELAND ADVENTURE: ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE

By Brandy Branscom



Glacier tongue, Vatnajökull National Park

After our college years at the University of Wyoming, both Grace and I were working at different jobs, when an email from UW's Alumni Association caught my eye. I am so grateful it did because I had no idea how much this would impact both Grace's and my lives.

The email was about a new program in which the university was sending groups of alumni across the world to encourage and enhance global engagement. When I initially began exploring the Iceland trip they offered, I didn't fully believe it would happen. It quickly turned into a reality, and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to check off a bucket list item for both my sister and me.

Grace and I continue to speak about the trip a year later, and about the sights, people, and memories. Led by faculty member Dr. Anne Alexander, we learned so much about Icelandic culture, and we could not wait to share with our family when we returned. We ate some amazing food, and we still talk about how perfect and comforting some of the dishes were on those cool and brisk days. We met absolutely incredible people, while also reconnecting with some from our past.

We hope to make a return trip back to Iceland to share the island and its beauty with those we are close with.

Brandy and Grace Branscom are sisters born and raised in Laramie, and both are UW alumni.



Northern Highlands, Möðrudalur/Fjalladýrð

Photos courtesy of Grace and Brandy Branscom



A typical breakfast in Iceland

## ICELAND ADVENTURE: FACULTY PERSPECTIVES

Dr. Anne Alexander and Dr. Tristan Wallhead led an alumni global study tour to Iceland this past spring. This and similar tours to Scotland, Germany, and more are a cornerstone of UW's alumni engagement and international partnering.



Alumni global study tours:  
[uwyo.edu/alumni/travel](https://uwyo.edu/alumni/travel)

“As a UW alumni and lover of Iceland, it felt like the perfect opportunity to show our alumni a place that I love. This has also given me the opportunity to expand my knowledge of the Icelandic culture. My favorite experience in Iceland with the alumni last year [2024] was when we had to deal with an unforecasted blizzard that came through the island and settled in for many days. Our alumni travelers were curious, excited, and loved every day, even when we had to change plans. Our favorite place ended up being none other than the N1 gas station, where we always found solace. I was excited to continue to show this culturally rich country to more alumni on our 2025 trip.

Dr. Anne Alexander, Assistant Dean, College of Business



Anne Alexander and UW alumni outside an N1 gas station in Iceland



Tristan Wallhead inside an ice cave under a glacier in Höfn í Hornafirði

“This year's [2025] Iceland trip was a fantastic experience. Taking eight days to travel around the perimeter of the island allowed the group to take in incredible views: from beautiful waterfalls, bubbling hot springs, fields of Iceland horses, and of course the majestic aurora borealis. The group bonded together around our fascination with such amazing natural beauty. The evening social dinners were a favorite as we reflected on our days in Iceland. A truly memorable trip where strangers became friends and bonded in exploring the magnificence of Iceland.

Dr. Tristan Wallhead, Professor, Kinesiology Department;  
Faculty Chair, Wyoming International



Ravine in Kirkjubæjarklaustur on the southeast coast

## FULBRIGHT: FACULTY EXPERIENCES

The Fulbright Program is an international initiative that offers grants for students, scholars, and professionals to conduct research, study, or teach abroad. In 2024, Wyoming opened their own Fulbright chapter to support and promote Fulbright. With efforts from the Global Engagement Office, UW is able to facilitate competitive faculty, staff, and community applications, and shepherd student applications.



Isa Helfgott and Nordin Bin Yahaya



Applications for the 2026-2027 Fulbright Scholar Program are now open:  
[fulbrightscholars.org](https://fulbrightscholars.org)

“*The Fulbright experience has been both enriching and transformative. It has broadened my intercultural perspective and strengthened my global academic connections. My time at UW has been welcoming and intellectually rewarding—collaborating with faculty and engaging with students has deepened my appreciation for meaningful international exchange.*”

Dr. Nordin Bin Yahaya, Professor, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia;  
US-ASEAN Fulbright Visiting Scholar



Erin Phillips in Norway

“*My Fulbright Scholar Award has not only allowed me to expand my understanding of global critical mineral supply chains, but also to meet new Norwegian colleagues and experience the remarkable culture and landscapes of Norway.*”

Dr. Erin Phillips, Director, UW SER  
Cross-Cutting Programs;  
UW Fulbright Scholar

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS: TUNISIA

By Dr. Caroline McCracken-Flesher, Director, CGS

WyoGlobal is proud to support Wyoming's partnership with Tunisia. Led by the Wyoming National Guard, the partnership has flourished. In its twentieth year, it is expanding through the university and across the state to become a true State-to-State relationship.

Today, the Center for Global Studies is forging research collaborations to address shared challenges and transform them into opportunities. Tunisia shares concerns that continue to motivate us in Wyoming's basin and range. Water resources and their management; arid lands, agricultural production, and sustainability; remote populations, their economies and health; heritage, conservation, and tourism—these concerns and more encourage us in our work together.

In recent months, UW leaders have traveled to Tunisia to build areas of collaboration. The Governor and UW have signed Memorandums of Understanding to advance the partnership. We are developing faculty teams, here and in Tunisia, to address particular challenges. Faculty cohorts are focused on building tourism, on water and agriculture, on business and entrepreneurship, and on health and wellness. After all, Tunisia partners with only one state—Wyoming.



Tunisian colleague introducing an ancient water management system at the Water Temple in Zaghouan



Ambassador Hood UW visit:  
[uwo.edu/news/2025/02/us-ambassador-to-tunisia-visits-uw-campus](http://uwo.edu/news/2025/02/us-ambassador-to-tunisia-visits-uw-campus)



“Each side brings unique ideas and perspectives to the partnership, highlighting the importance of global collaboration. I cannot wait to read about the innovative research and life-changing stories that flourish from these special relationships.”

Nick Robinson, Administrative Associate, Global Engagement

MOU signing between UW and the Universities of Tunis, Sfax and Jendouba, the National Institute of Agricultural Research of Tunisia, and the National Institute of Agronomic Studies of Tunisia

## CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT IN MEDIA RESEARCH

By Dr. Cindy Price Schultz



Mike Brown, Kanat Auesbayuly (Dean of Journalism, KazNu), Cindy Price Schultz, Karlyga Myssayeva (Associate Professor, Journalism, KazNu)

The Center for Global Studies has been an amazing partner throughout my time conducting research in Kazakhstan. First, they provided funding for my flights to and from Kazakhstan, which was invaluable. Second, they have encouraged me to continue showcasing my research at various venues at UW and around the world.

Since returning from my recent visit to Kazakhstan this past fall, I presented for the Central and North Asia Faculty Cohort, speaking to an audience of about 25 people. Additionally, we were invited to be the keynote speakers for Navruz, the Central Asian Student Organization's annual celebration, on April 19.



COJO-KazNU partnership:  
[uwo.edu/global/wyoglobal-voices/partnerships/cojo-kaznu-partnership](http://uwo.edu/global/wyoglobal-voices/partnerships/cojo-kaznu-partnership)



Cindy Price Schultz with Bakyt Shoiymbek and her family at Charyn Canyon National Park, outside Almaty, Kazakhstan



Bakyt Shoiymbek (Kazakh student who visited UW), Cindy Price Schultz, Mike Brown, Karlyga Myssayeva, and Anar Shoiymbekova

For the second half of my sabbatical, I will be in Europe. First, I will present at the Media Management and Transformation Centre in Jönköping, Sweden. After that, Karlyga Myssayeva, my co-author, and I will present at the World Media Economics and Management Conference in Warsaw, Poland.

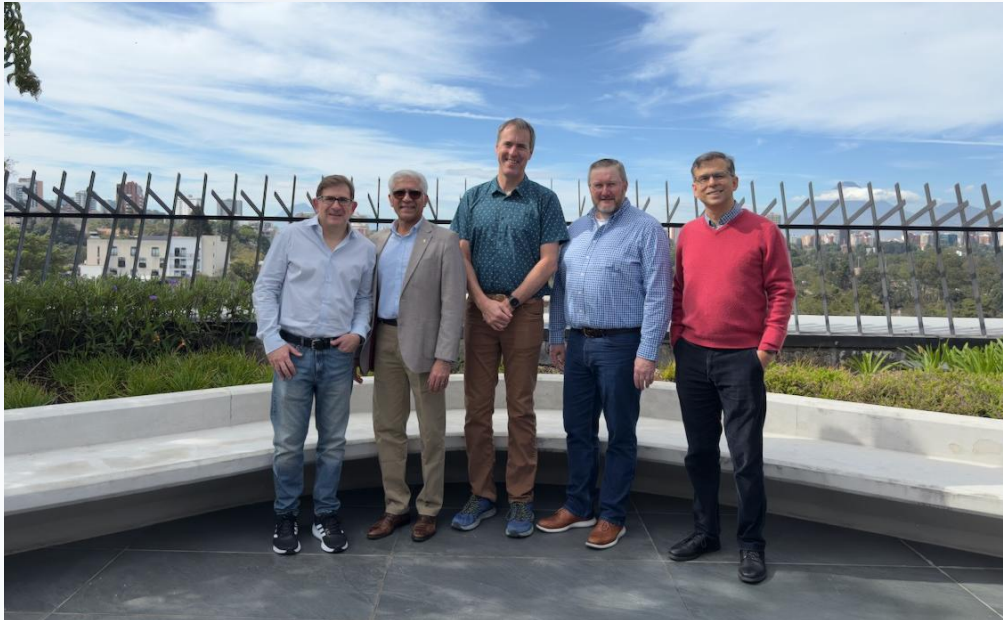
Shortly after that conference, there will be a special edition of the International Journal on Media Management, which will require us to submit our conference paper as a journal article.

Several Kazakh and Uzbek students expressed interest in coming to the University of Wyoming, following my presentations in those countries. In fact, three master's students are currently working on their visa applications so they can participate in the international journalism internship.

Dr. Cindy Price Schultz is an Associate Professor in UW's Communication and Journalism Department. She and Professor Emeritus Mike Brown have fostered a partnership with Kazakhstan's al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNu) since 2012.

# EMERGING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS: UVG IN GUATEMALA

By Warren Crawford, Associate Director, Global Engagement



UW's Quique Girones, Arun Pradhan, Dan McCoy, and Warren Crawford with Director General UVG, Fernando Escalante, on the central UVG campus in Guatemala City

UW is pleased to announce a renewed initiative with the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG), building on a partnership established in 2001. This collaboration serves as a gateway to Central America, providing faculty with access to diverse research environments, multidisciplinary collaboration, and impactful international academic experiences.

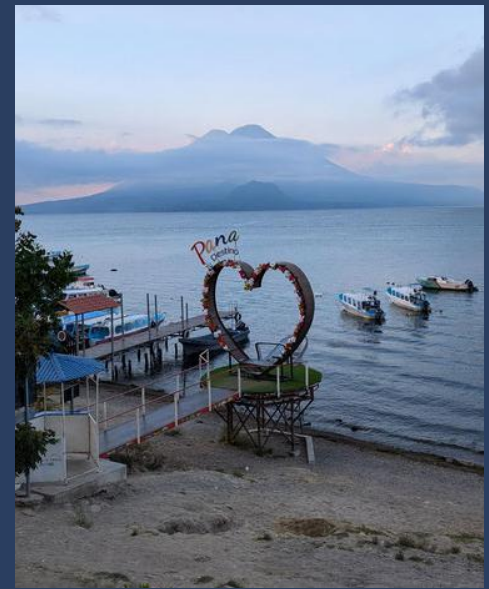
We look forward to strengthening academic ties with UVG and creating transformative learning experiences for faculty and students alike.



Dan McCoy meeting with UVG faculty and students

## WyoGlobal Partnerships

WyoGlobal has 84 current institutional agreements, as well as 14 more agreements in process, representing 42 countries. WyoGlobal has an additional 28 partnerships with international agencies and program providers that assist our internationalization efforts.



Lake Atitlan, close to the Highlands Campus of UVG

“Visiting UVG in Guatemala was eye-opening. I was incredibly impressed by UVG's ingenuity, creativity, and entrepreneurial mindset. While there are challenges in their country, they approach them as opportunities. I hope we can build a partnership that is fulfilling for both institutions.

Dr. Dan McCoy, Director,  
WORTH Initiative

## UW and Wyoming representatives in India:

- Global Engagement Office
- School of Computing
- College of Agriculture
- Life Sciences, and Natural Resources
- Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, School of Energy Resources
- College of Health Sciences
- College of Arts and Sciences
- Central Wyoming College
- Tata Chemicals North America (Green River, Wyoming)

## EMERGING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS: INDIA

By Warren Crawford, Associate Director, Global Engagement

Seeking to enhance global collaboration and innovation, VP Isa Helfgott recently led a diverse UW delegation on a visit to India. The delegation's purpose was threefold: to foster research partnerships, establish two-way student mobility pathways, and engage industry leaders whose work intersects with Wyoming's economic priorities.

The delegation also explored opportunities for students from India to study at UW—whether for short-term research projects or full undergraduate and graduate programs. Discussions also emphasized opportunities for UW students to experience India through research internships, fieldwork, and academic exchange, providing cross-cultural professional development.

As UW continues to serve as a catalyst for positive change, this India visit represents a meaningful stride in expanding our global footprint. Stay tuned for more updates as these new collaborations unfold in the coming months and years.



“In India, the partnerships forged and opportunities identified underscore our commitment to advancing knowledge, preparing UW students to be global citizens and problem-solvers, and fueling the Wyoming economy.

*Warren Crawford, Associate Director, Global Engagement*



Members of the UW delegation to India met with officials from the United States Embassy in New Delhi

## CARDIFF-UW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



Rob Monger and Caroline McCracken-Flesher with visiting Cardiff University faculty and students

“Our partnership with Cardiff University’s medical faculty has enabled a student exchange focused on comparing US and UK health systems, and building cultural competence. Students have gained insights that will shape their careers as compassionate, globally-minded physicians—and have formed friendships that will last a lifetime.

Dr. Robert Monger, Dean of WWAMI



President Ed Seidel met with Cardiff University’s Dr. Phil Stephens, International Dean for the Americas, to discuss future directions for the ongoing strategic partnership

Spearheaded at UW through a joint effort by the Office of the President and the Global Engagement Office, UW and Cardiff University began a strategic partnership in 2023 to bolster meaningful and tangible academic programs, impactful research, and innovative interdisciplinary work. The partnership aims to develop and expand opportunities for faculty and student exchange.



UW faculty and Cardiff University researchers at Inspiration Point in Grand Teton National Park



WWAMI-Cardiff medical partnership:  
[uwyo.edu/news/2024/08/uw-wwami-program-partners-with-cardiff-university-to-bolster-research-and-education](https://uwyo.edu/news/2024/08/uw-wwami-program-partners-with-cardiff-university-to-bolster-research-and-education)

## SEMESTER AT SEA: AN OPPORTUNITY TO GROW

By Ireland Earl



Taj Mahal, India



Begin your journey:

[www.uwyo.edu/uwyoabroad/get-started/timeline](http://www.uwyo.edu/uwyoabroad/get-started/timeline)

Doing Semester at Sea gave me the chance to see firsthand how different cultures live, work, eat, and celebrate. This experience allowed me to challenge my own stereotypes and preconceived notions of a culture. Being able to visit thirteen countries in four months was truly the experience of a lifetime. I visited places I had always dreamed of, as well as places I never thought I'd go.

From learning about Muslim culture in Morocco, to Hinduism in Mauritius and Buddhist culture in Thailand, I learned about cultures that are so different from the US and my hometown. For example, while visiting Morocco, we had to wear head coverings and modest clothing. It was a great opportunity for me to learn more about Islam and why these ways of dress, specifically for women, are important to them and important for us as tourists to mindfully regard those expectations.

During my time in Mauritius, the country was days away from a presidential election. Conversing with locals about differing political histories, systems, and views was a unique experience that helped me understand the country on a deeper level.

The biggest challenge I had while living among these varying cultures was having to quickly adapt. One example is when I arrived in Morocco. I was thrown into a country and society that is so incredibly different from small-town Wyoming. After Morocco, I started being comfortable in the uncomfortable. By the end of my travels, the discomfort became easier and experiencing new cultures wasn't as intimidating anymore.

Ireland Earl is a first generation UW student and Gilman Scholar.



Embarking in Ijmuiden, Netherlands



Ireland at sea

# CENTENNIAL GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND LAUNCHED

By Dr. Thomas Risse

For more than ten years now, the Centennial community has supported UW's Center for Global Studies. The Centennial Fellowships have allowed numerous UW students from all disciplines (undergraduate and graduate) to carry out research projects in all corners of the world, and to give them unique international experiences in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe.

The Centennial Fellowships are particularly targeted at students who have never left Wyoming, let alone the United States, to allow them to widen their horizons by doing research abroad. At the same time, the Centennial community has immensely profited from talks by Centennial Fellows as well as UW faculty, held every summer at the Centennial Library.

Last year, Tanja Börzel and Thomas Risse, professors from Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, and part-time residents of Centennial, have initiated the Centennial Global Fellowship Endowment Fund. The idea is to put the Centennial Fellowship program on a more stable and sustainable footing for perpetuity, and to provide UW students with opportunities to venture abroad wherever they choose to do research.

Dr. Thomas Risse is a Senior Professor at Freie Universität Berlin and Professor Emeritus at UW's School of Politics, Public Affairs & International Studies.



Thomas Risse and Tanja Börzel



Thomas Risse speaking at the Centennial Speaker Series BBQ

Two students in the UW Intensive English Program (IEP) provide insights about academic life in the US.



Learn more about the English Language Center: [uwyo.edu/elc](https://uwyo.edu/elc)

## WHEN VIETNAM AND PANAMA MEET IN WYOMING

By Jenny Luong

I started studying at UW in fall 2024. On the first day I went to school, I was a little confused because the school has quite a large campus. Luckily, I met a girl who also goes to UW's English Language Center, so we went together.

My involvement in the UW IEP has had a positive impact on my studies and my experience at UW. Through the program, I have been able to improve my English language skills, which has helped me in school. The classes are not only essential for understanding lectures and completing assignments, but also with social skills.

Additionally, the IEP has connected me with other international students, helping me adjust to life in the US and making me feel more comfortable in my new environment.

My advice for incoming students considering the IEP is that the program offers a great opportunity to improve your language skills and better prepare for academic life in the US.

Jenny Luong is an IEP student from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.



Students at work in the ELC's Academic English Skills class

By Anaís Canto

During these two semesters at UW, I have experienced significant personal and academic growth. I have learned useful tools and methods in the IEP that have made me a happier, more grateful, and more successful student.

The instructors are trustworthy and experts in their fields. Their commitments and words are always consistent with their actions. Furthermore, their explanations, ideas, and advice for general improvement are easy to understand.

Also, the only way to communicate with other international classmates is in English, because everyone speaks a different native language. This environment pushes you to speak and practice English. As a result, you'll become more fluent while making amazing new friends and expanding your perspective on the world.

This program immerses you in a classroom full of diversity, understanding, and fun. Without a doubt, you will gain impressive and valuable knowledge.

Anaís Canto is an IEP student from Eastern Panama.



Anaís Canto and Zhuwei "Drew" Zhao

## THE KUWAITI COWBOYS

Over 70 students from Kuwait joined the UW community this year. Osamah Salman, Erika Christianson, and Marian Stordahl provide perspectives on the new cohort.

“When I began working at UW, I never imagined my first teaching assignment would include a vibrant cohort of 70 students from Kuwait. They’ve found exciting activities, made new friends, and they’re well-equipped for the cold with snow boots, puffers, and tire chains for their cars. I will continue to relish this opportunity to learn as much as I can about a country I knew very little about until this year.

Erika Christianson, ELC instructor



Nayef Almekhyal, Osamah Salman, Omar Monef, Saad Abdulmalek, Rashed Alazmi, and Yousef Alfadhli on a Yellowstone trip led by ISS and ELC staff

We in the Global Engagement Office have observed our Kuwaiti students’ novel approaches to college existence and to life in the Rocky Mountains. We are grateful to Kuwait for sharing with us ambassadors who will always hold a place in the hearts and memories of well-wishers across the sea!

Dr. Marian Stordahl, ELC instructor

”



Anaís Canto, Thuy “Bin” Ngo, and Rashed Alazmi with Erika Christianson

“Moving from Kuwait to the University of Wyoming has been a transformative experience. Adjusting to a new academic system and cultural environment was initially challenging, but the welcoming community and supportive resources made it easier. ISS provided essential guidance, and the English Language Center helped refine my communication skills. What I truly appreciated was the variety of activities, especially hiking trips, which allowed me to explore Wyoming’s natural beauty. I also felt completely comfortable asking questions—people were always understanding and genuinely interested in helping. The level of support made me feel like I was in my home country, as everyone recognized that I came from a different background and was always willing to listen.

Osamah Salman, UW student



Osamah Salman and Omar Monef at Yellowstone

# UW STUDENT INTERNSHIP IN SCOTLAND

By Amanda Anzovino



Amanda in front of a "Welcome to Scotland" sign

For my internship in summer 2024, I worked with two members of the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR). During my month in Dundee, my colleagues and I developed a study to qualitatively assess current policies for forensic report writing, communication strategies for report writing, and how these may differ or be similar across Scotland and the US.

To immerse myself in the culture, I traveled Scotland from coast to coast, to meet and learn from locals. I was able to experience iconic locations throughout Scottish history.

I explored the Aberdeen coast, visited my colleague at Robert Gordon University, and rode the Royal Deeside Railway. I traveled to the Isle of Skye and along the Moray Coast, stopping at many small towns along the way. I explored smaller cities like St. Andrews and larger cities like Glasgow. Through a weekend trip to Edinburgh, I was able to experience Scotland's capital and take day trips to Loch Ness, Glencoe, and the Scottish Borders.

My summer was an unforgettable and life-changing experience, both as a researcher and an individual. It was the highlight of my four years at UW. The UW in Scotland Internship Award provided me with a unique educational experience that further developed my abilities to conduct social justice-related research that is culturally inclusive.

Amanda Anzovino is a Psychology PhD student and recipient of the Center for Global Studies UW in Scotland Internship Award.



Learn more about UW in  
Scotland:  
[uwyo.edu/globalcenter/signature-programs/uw-scotland](https://uwyo.edu/globalcenter/signature-programs/uw-scotland)



Amanda meeting Highland cows in their element

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HIGHLIGHT:

## LAURA ROJAS

By Mary Barnes

In January 2023, Laura Rojas began her graduate degree at UW. After completing her undergraduate degree in her home country of Colombia, Laura started looking for higher education opportunities. She reached out to her current advisor and UW alumni, Dr. Soheil Saraji, who presented her with the opportunity to pursue a PhD program here at UW. Although scared, Laura decided to take a leap of faith and move her life to a new country.

Laura is more than happy about her decision. She is conducting research in blockchain technology applied to the energy sector: “My hope is that this research demonstrates how blockchain can enhance validation and traceability of carbon emissions data, ensuring its integrity and facilitating more credible carbon emissions reporting.”

When Laura first moved here, it was quite the adjustment—not only to the rigorous coursework but the climate as well. Laura explained that resources like International Students and Scholars (ISS) were crucial in helping her feel at home: “From the very beginning, ISS was a great help to me. They were kind and responsive when I needed assistance filing visa paperwork to come here.”

Laura described her time in Laramie as enriching, especially the social opportunities put on by both ISS and student organizations: “I’ve particularly enjoyed attending the diverse cultural programs, such as India Night, Bangladesh Night, Nepali Night, and much more.”

In 2023, Laura had the opportunity to help organize the International Student Association (ISA) Etiquette Dinner, which had a Latin American theme: “This event was especially meaningful to me because it allowed me to share my culture with a wider audience.” Beyond cultural events, Laura has also embraced the outdoor opportunities that Laramie has to offer. Laura described skiing for the first time as an unforgettable experience. She also enjoys attending UW’s Outdoor Program activities, including rock climbing, paddle boarding, and mountain biking.

Although Laura says, “I did not choose UW, it chose me. I love how calm it is, and I feel at home and safe here, which has allowed me to focus on my studies and pursue the career I want.”

Laura Rojas is a PhD student from Colombia, conducting research in the Petroleum Engineering Department.



Laura at Vedauwoo

“From the very beginning, ISS was a great help to me. They were kind and responsive when I needed assistance filing visa paperwork to come here.”



Laura with her climbing gear

## WYOGLOBAL STAFF SPOTLIGHT: JILL JOHNSON

Jill Johnson, Director of International Students and Scholars (ISS), is the UW Staff Employee of the year.



Jill Johnson

“ In ISS, we work to recruit and retain international students. In retaining the students, we create federal immigration documents and work with our international students and researchers to monitor and support their immigration status. We also have fun! We offer weekly programming to ensure our students and scholars feel connected to campus and the larger community. Our international community is special. They are hard-working and dedicated, contributing to the research at UW and enhancing classroom and living spaces. I am so very lucky to work in this beautiful campus with wonderful people, serving a great community of conscientious international students and scholars. For me, this is a dream job.

Jill Johnson, Director, International Students and Scholars



Award Press Release:  
[uwyo.edu/news/2025/04/johnson-named-uw-staff-employee-of-the-year](https://uwyo.edu/news/2025/04/johnson-named-uw-staff-employee-of-the-year)



International students celebrating their graduation in fall 2024



EducationUSA advisors and ISS staff



Learn more about International Students and Scholars:  
[uwyo.edu/iss](https://uwyo.edu/iss)

# 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) 766-3677

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.