

# WYOGLOBAL

# INSIGHTS



UNIVERSITY  
OF WYOMING

Global  
Engagement  
Office

FALL 2025

## CONTENTS

- 2 Beyond the Classroom
- 4 Fulbright Exchange
- 5 International Partnering
- 8 Faculty Research
- 9 Stories of Conservation
- 11 Exploration through Shakespeare
- 12 Cowboys Abroad
- 15 Education Summit on Global Competency
- 16 International Education Week
- 17 A letter from Papua
- 18 Q&A with ISS Staff
- 19 Accelerator Program
- 20 Staff Spotlight

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

Dear students, faculty, staff, and friends of Global Engagement,

As we end the fall semester, I'm excited to share highlights of global engagement at the University of Wyoming. This semester, we advanced key international initiatives, including visits to Cardiff University to develop interdisciplinary research teams and expand student mobility opportunities, to Nepal to explore partnerships in agriculture, natural resources, and conservation, and to Tunisia, where researchers are building new opportunities that complement our state-to-state National Guard partnership.

In Laramie, we welcomed international visitors through various fellowship programs, including the Young Southeast Asian Leader's Initiative, Faculty Enrichment Program with Uzbekistan, and two Tunisian Fulbright recipients. We are also thrilled to welcome Margaret McElligott as the new Assistant Director for International Students and Scholars, who brings valuable experience to grow UW's international student recruitment efforts. I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in this year's International Education Week, which again showcased the transformative power of international experiences.

Finally, I'd like to honor the late Vice President Dick Cheney, whose support for international education has left a lasting legacy at UW. The Cheney Study Abroad Scholarship has enabled hundreds of UW students to pursue life-changing international opportunities, and the Cheney International Center serves as a hub for international activity across campus.

Looking ahead, I'm grateful for your continued partnership in strengthening UW's global footprint. Wishing you a restful holiday season!

**Isa Helfgott**  
Vice Provost for  
Global Engagement





Houssam with his teammates



Support your UW athletes!  
Check out the 2026 schedule:  
[gowyo.com](http://gowyo.com)



Heidur Karlsdottir lays it up against  
Chadron State, November 2024

## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: SPORTS AND COMMUNITY

by Houssam Eddine El Alaoui

Being a student athlete at the UW will always be the best thing that has happened to me. Coming from a country where football doesn't even exist, to having an opportunity to be the first Moroccan to ever play on a collegiate level, I give all my thanks to those who gave me this opportunity.

I chose UW because of its culture. I always liked the cowboy country lifestyle, and there's no better place than Wyoming for that. Also, UW provides great academic programs that prepare you to be a leader in the future.

Being on the football team has been life-changing. It taught me resilience, toughness, and the importance of accountability and ownership. Moreover, it introduced me to great people, all the way from my coaches to my teammates.

UW will always be my second home. I will always be grateful for this place and for all the people I met during my time here. Thank you everyone at UW. Go Pokes!!!

Houssam Eddine El Alaoui is an undergraduate student in Marketing and Management

This year, UW Women's Basketball is home to nine international students from Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Australia and Sweden.

“*Having so many international students around us made the adjustment so much easier. There are so many people and other students like us that are around, that have dealt with the same experiences, like coming to a different country and being so far away from home, that it makes it much easier. It's a great community here in Laramie, we see that international students are a big part of the campus community as a whole. The environment here makes it easier for all of us to adjust and there's people we can relate to. We're all far away from home, so we enjoy that community. We enjoy being here at UW, Laramie and the state of Wyoming.*”

UW Women's Basketball team, representing: Lana Beslic (Croatia), Liv Blomkvist (Sweden), Aurore Eyango (France), Katie Harrington (Australia), Heidur Karlsdottir (Iceland), Karoline Lundin (Denmark), Kati Ollilainen (Finland), Malene Pedersen (Denmark), Henna Sandvik (Finland)

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: CARVING A NEW PATH

By Mary Barnes

When Bettie Jin first traveled from China to Laramie, it was as part of a student exchange between the Shanghai University of Sport (SUS) and UW. Along with several peers, she joined the UW Nordic Ski Team, where daily practices, new friendships, and the encouragement of coaches and teammates helped turn this foreign space into something resembling a home.

That first experience in Wyoming left a lasting impression. Bettie decided that her story with UW was not over. Now back in Laramie, she is pursuing a master’s degree in Kinesiology, with an emphasis in Physical Education Teacher Education. Her journey reflects a passion for sport, academics, and the belief that the two can strengthen one another.

While her academic journey is rewarding, adapting to a new culture remains the greatest challenge. “The culture here is so different from my own,” she shared. “But I do my best to show respect to each person I meet and hope they will do the same. Listening and adapting is very important to me.” Through the support of the Nordic Ski Team and mentoring from coaches Christi Boggs and Rachel Watson, she has built a second home that helps bridge cultural differences.

Faculty mentorship has also shaped her decision to continue at UW. Tutors like Tristan Wallhead, Professor in Kinesiology and Health, and faculty like Kelly Simonton, Associate Professor in Physical Education Teacher Education, have provided not just academic guidance, but also kindness and inclusivity. “Professors here are kind and supportive of international students,” she said. “They encourage equality and inclusivity both inside and outside of the classroom.”

For Bettie, the lessons learned extend beyond athletics. “It is important to keep doing sports,” she said. “Sports build rich relationships, and they have a kind of magic. Back home, many people think you should stop sports to focus only on studying, but I want to break that stereotype.”

Bettie’s journey encompasses strength, resilience, the power of community, and what it means to be a UW Cowboy. By combining academics, athletics, and respect for cultural differences, she is building a future that nurtures both personal and professional growth, while continuing to create a second home here in Laramie.

Bettie Jin is a first year master’s student in Kinesiology & Health, with an emphasis in Physical Education Teacher Education.



UW Nordic Ski Team trip to Leadville, Colorado, 2025



Discover more about UW Nordic Ski Team: [uwyonordic.com](http://uwyonordic.com)



Summer 2025 visit to SUS with President Ed Seidel and WyoGlobal

Fulbright offers funding for students, scholars, and other professionals to research, study, or teach abroad. This year, UW is sending two students and two scholars abroad, and hosting a scholar and student.



Dr. Sondos Bannouri



2026-27 Fulbright Scholar applications are now open:  
[fulbrightscholars.org](https://fulbrightscholars.org)



Dr. Magdalena Wór, Dr. Theresa Bogard and Dr. Glêsse Collet

## GLOBAL EXCHANGE THROUGH FULBRIGHT

By Dr. Sondos Bannouri

I've been teaching accounting since 2014, with a special focus at Tunis Business School (TBS) since 2016. TBS's adoption of the American system and its vibrant extracurricular culture really sparked my interest in the U.S. educational environment. The Fulbright opportunity at the UW felt like the perfect next step to share my innovative approach of blending art and creativity with accounting education.

My focus is on transforming accounting education by integrating creativity and visual facilitation, specifically using Color Accounting. This approach makes accounting more accessible and engaging. UW stood out because of its genuine support for innovative research and its welcoming community. The International Students and Scholars office and College of Business have shown a lot of enthusiasm for my work.

I aim to foster cross-cultural academic exchanges, build lasting partnerships, and gain new insights that I can bring back to my students in Tunisia. Internationalization means fostering genuine global connections and sharing knowledge beyond borders. Programs like Fulbright are essential in this process, as they help us exchange academic ideas and build mutual understanding and respect.

Dr. Sondos Bannouri, Professor, Tunis Business School;  
Visiting Fulbright Scholar

By Dr. Theresa Bogard

During the 2025-26 academic year, I will spend four months in Brazil, researching music by Brazilian women composers. I was first introduced to Brazilian classical music in 2007. I have since dedicated 18 years to performing, researching, and teaching courses on Brazilian music, helping to expand awareness of this rich and diverse tradition.

While in Brazil, I will collect repertoire for solo piano and chamber music with piano. This research will culminate in a professional audio and video recording project, with the goal of making this repertoire more widely accessible to performers, students, and audiences worldwide.

Through Fulbright, I continue my long-standing commitment to highlighting underrepresented voices in classical music and strengthening cultural and scholarly ties between the United States and Brazil.

Theresa Bogard, Professor, Department of Music;  
UW Fulbright Scholar

# INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS: VIETNAM

By Dr. Danny Dale

This past spring, I traveled with a contingent of 20 other U.S. universities to meet with representatives from 31 STEM-focused universities. Organized by the Institute of International Education (IIE) and funded by the Center for Global Studies, our aim was to explore potential collaborations in Vietnam.

Our group did in-depth visits to several universities, in addition to a lot of 5-minute “speed dating” sessions to be able to meet with every university. One key takeaway was the immense potential that is palpable when you visit Vietnam. In turn, Vietnam is eager to establish connections with U.S. institutions, including international mobility (study abroad) programs for undergraduates, research partnerships in most STEM fields, and cooperative agreements involving the sharing of curriculum and faculty members.

After returning to the U.S., I was inspired to build on this experience by spearheading a research internship program at UW for undergraduate students from the Hanoi University for Science & Technology (HUST). This past summer, we brought eight HUST students to UW to work in several of our research labs in the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. The faculty mentors universally reported high satisfaction with the efforts of these students.

Some of our faculty involved in this internship program are now collaborating in research with the faculty advisors of their summer mentees. Hopefully we will be able to send some UW students and faculty to Vietnam in the near future!

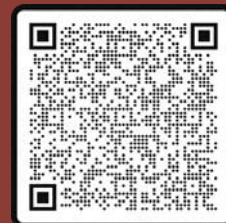
Danny Dale is a Professor Department of Physics and Astronomy and Interim Dean for the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences.



Dr. Dale with representatives from the Vietnamese-German University

“*I was inspired to build on this experience by spearheading a research internship program at UW for students from HUST.*

Danny Dale



Interview with Danny Dale in Vietnam: [thanhvien.vn](http://thanhvien.vn)



A portion of the IIE delegation to Vietnam, in front of a memorial for Vietnamese soldiers.



UW delegation meets with faculty representatives from Shihutug University in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS: MONGOLIA

By Warren Crawford, Associate Director, Global Engagement

A UW delegation recently traveled to Mongolia to explore new avenues for academic collaboration with leading Mongolian universities. Our team spent a day with leadership at Shihutug University (SU), where leaders shared their vision to broaden programs in accounting, finance, economics, and marketing, and to establish an MBA program. SU expressed strong interest in partnering with UW to help educate and train future Mongolian business faculty and leaders.

The delegation also met with leadership at the National University of Mongolia (NUM). NUM expressed interest in creating student exchange opportunities with UW to provide international exposure for both UW and NUM students, while strengthening research and academic ties.



UW global partnerships:  
[uwyo.edu/global/global-partners/](http://uwyo.edu/global/global-partners/)



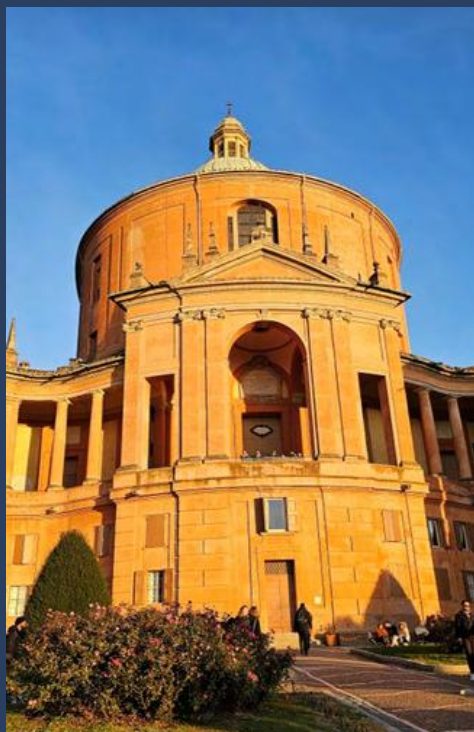
The Government Palace at Sukhbaatar Square

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS: BOLOGNA

By Dr. Vladimir Alvarado

The University of Bologna (UniBO), the oldest and largest university in Europe, signed an MOU with UW this summer. This grew from Professor Marco Pellegrini's 2024 visit to UW to build connections with the School of Energy Resources, part of the European Commission's commitment to commercial hydrogen energy projects. During our current trip to UniBO, we identified expertise and facilities aligned with Wyoming's interests. This led to the development of a proposal with several European institutions, Los Alamos National Lab, and UW, the resulting MOU. Currently, a UW Energy Resources student is conducting experiments in a UniBO lab, taking advantage of its unique facility.

Vladimir Alvarado is the Interim Department Head for Chemical and Biomedical Engineering.



Città Rossa in Bologna

# CARDIFF-UW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

By Dr. Shannon Albeke and Dr. Jeff Hamerlinck

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.

The purpose of our October visit to Cardiff was to strengthen collaboration in Computing, Data Science, and Geospatial applications, with a focus on future research, course development, and exploring pathways to enhance student mobility. We met with faculty from three academic schools: Computer Science and Informatics, Earth and Environmental Sciences, and Geography and Planning. The visit sparked exciting connections that we expect will foster growth and collaboration between the two universities.

Key takeaways from the trip include:

- Innovative ideas for pedagogical approaches to teaching data science through domain-specific concepts.
- Opportunities for postdoctoral exchanges to broaden knowledge-sharing and advance targeted research projects.
- Potential for place-based web applications that showcase geologic and human histories shaping the similar economies of Wyoming and Wales.

Looking ahead, we plan to host a virtual “Get to Know Your Colleagues” lightning talk session, designed to inspire collaborative research initiatives.

Jeff Hamerlinck is the Director of the Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center (WyGISC) and Shannonn Albeke is a Senior Research Scientist in WyGISC.



Shannon and Jeff after a productive meeting with Cardiff faculty from Earth and Environmental Sciences.



UW & Cardiff Seed Grant  
Funding Application is open  
until January 26, 2026:  
[uwo.infoready4.com](https://uwo.infoready4.com)



UW faculty in the kickoff meeting where Cardiff faculty presented their school's mission and capacities.

Facilitated by WyoGlobal and the UW Alumni Association, Michael Dillon and Brian Cherrington are leading an alumni study tour to Paris and London next year. They join John Koprowski and Kent Drummond, who are leading tours to Mongolia and London.



Alumni Travel Program:  
[pokes.org/travel](https://pokes.org/travel)



Lead a tour:

[gopokes.formstack.com/forms/faculty\\_study\\_tour\\_application](https://gopokes.formstack.com/forms/faculty_study_tour_application)

## FACULTY RESEARCH ABROAD

By Dr. Michael Dillon

Heat waves are increasingly more frequent and intense. Extreme heat not only directly affects humans, it can profoundly impact pollinators critical for agricultural and rangeland production. I traveled to Colombia, Brazil, and Argentina to continue building a cross continent multidisciplinary partnership focused on predicting responses of bee communities to extreme heat. We established three new field sites at 34°S, 23°S, 4°N which complement existing sites at 17°N (Chiapas, Mexico), 41°N (Laramie, WY), and 48°N (Kingston, WA). Across this network, sites differ in local conditions, in bee communities, and in the local agricultural production that depends on pollination, providing an opportunity to understand how bees and other pollinators cope with extreme temperatures at a cross-continental scale.



Michael Dillon with colleagues at the University of Buenos Aires

Michael Dillon is a professor in Zoology and Physiology and traveled for research from May-September 2025, funded by CGS.

## ENERGY CONNECTIONS IN SCOTLAND

Dr. Tara Righetti spent the summer doing research in Scotland, sponsored by UW in Scotland, culminating in a conference this fall, sponsored by the Center for Global Studies and Research and Economic Development Division.

“My discussions with energy researchers across Scotland highlighted our shared challenges and our common commitment to a resilient, diversified energy sector that strengthens communities and provides enduring local value, a vision I am eager to help advance through research collaboration and academic exchange.”

Tara Righetti

Tara Righetti is the School of Energy Resources Occidental Chair in Energy and Environmental Policies.



The closing of the Grangemouth Oil Refinery, the last in Scotland, which ceased processing oil in April 2025

# UW AND THE CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND

By Cindy Price Schultz

When UW students go to Namibia this May, there will be a guarantee of seeing cheetahs. Three faculty members from the Communication and Journalism Department are taking students to the Cheetah Conservation Fund, an organization dedicated to saving cheetahs in the wild.

This Global Seminar was initiated in Fall 2024 when Isa Helfgott, Vice Provost of Global Engagement, arranged for myself to meet Dr. Laurie Marker, CCF's Executive Director, when she spoke at UW. From there, the CCF board approved the seminar for May 2026.

I went to CCF in June for a site visit and it was amazing to see what the organization is doing to help keep cheetahs a vital part of the ecosystem. The students will use their communication and journalism skills to help CCF and CCF will teach them how they can have a global impact.



Cindy Price Schultz at the CCF Research and Education Centre



A CCF release candidate, Zephyr, sits in the morning light, June 2025 (CCF)

UW students will take photos, write blogs, help with social media and do other publicity projects while in Namibia. They will also explore the capital, Windhoek, and Etosha National Park, where they will see wildlife such as zebras, rhinos and antelope. I will be joined by COJO assistant professors Kayla Clark and Shane Epping.

Dr. Cindy Price Schultz is an Associate Professor in the Communication and Journalism Department.



Learn more about CCF:  
[cheetah.org](https://cheetah.org)



Learn more about Forrest's  
photography experience:  
[www.uwyo.edu/news](http://www.uwyo.edu/news)

## STORIES OF CONSERVATION: INSPIRING CONSERVATION THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

By Forrest Cole

When planning my next steps after graduating, I wanted to combine my passion for storytelling with my love for the outdoors. The Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) turned out to be an amazing place to do just that. CCF is a cheetah conservancy outside of Otjiwarango, Namibia, in the middle of the most dense population of cheetahs left in the wild. CCF provides solutions to the challenges that face the wild cheetah, especially human-wildlife conflict and illegal wildlife trade. It operates a fully functional veterinary clinic, genetics lab, dog breeding program, and cheetah rehabilitation facilities.

As a media intern, I captured the different departments at CCF, photographing cheetahs, and telling the story of the people who make CCF's mission possible. Some of my favorite moments were with the veterinary team, documenting how to get a big cat into the clinic and under anesthesia. I created content for social media, outreach materials, and educational programs, connecting audiences with CCF's work.

I gained a greater appreciation for what working as a communicator at an organization means, and grew confidence in my skills as a creator. Getting hands-on experience working among a passionate and driven team was invaluable.

This experience has shaped my idea of what can be done with a camera. It was my first foray into conservation photography, and proved to be more meaningful than I ever imagined. It's given me new goals to look towards as a photographer, starting with my return to CCF Namibia in November 2025.

Forrest Cole is a UW graduate in Communication and Journalism, and the first communication intern at the Cheetah Conservation Fund.



Forrest Cole capturing a photo of a cheetah eating at the CCF, 2025.



Dr. Anne Shiimi, CCF veterinarian, monitors a group of puppies in CCF's on-site clinic, June 14, 2025.



Scat detection team member, Ruusa Uugwanga, and her dog, Enyakwa, July 2025.

# EXPLORATION THROUGH SHAKESPEARE WITH THE DEAN OF HONORS

By Dr. Peter Parolin

It's been amazing over the years to watch students light up in my Shakespeare in England and Italy course. I developed this course based on my research into Shakespeare's obsession with Italy as a setting for his plays. My co-teacher at the time, Duncan Harris, said let's make the same journey ourselves, from England to Italy, that Shakespeare makes on stage and see what happens. Twenty-two years later, the rest is history!



Professor Leigh Selting and students before a production of *Titus Andronicus* at the Royal Shakespeare Company's Swan Theatre



Group photo in front of London's St. Paul's Cathedral

Shakespeare explodes off the page in new ways when you are seeing live productions by some of the best actors anywhere in locations like the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Globe Theatre.

Then we layer on a whole new dimension in Italian cities like Verona and Venice where Shakespeare set so many plays - we see that Shakespeare was looking at Italy from the perspective of his home country, just as, in our class, we look at England and Italy from the perspective of the United States.

Peter Parolin is the Dean of the Honors College. This J-term he will be second faculty on a conservation ecology course in Nepal.



Students admiring the Roman Arena in the Piazza Bra in Verona, Italy

# FINDING MY VOICE: A UW ALUMNA ABROAD

By Madeline Jablin



Madeline visiting the pier on a daytrip to Malaga



Learn about the API Program:  
[apiabroad.com](http://apiabroad.com)

My name is Madeline, and I'm from Laramie, Wyoming. I recently graduated with degrees in Spanish and Speech Pathology, and I'll be returning this fall to start my master's in Speech Pathology. During the 2023-2024 academic year, I had the incredible opportunity to study abroad in Granada, Spain, through the API program. While there, I focused on studying the Spanish language and experienced so many amazing cultural opportunities. These included learning flamenco dancing and visiting cities across southern Spain.

I chose Granada because it's one of the smaller cities that still offers study abroad programs, so it felt a little more like home while still being a new adventure. Classes were different from UW, we'd move our chairs into a circle for conversation, and there was less focus on homework and more on being intentional in class.

That experience made me a better student and gave me the confidence to speak up more when I returned to UW. Studying abroad also shaped my future as a speech pathologist.

Being immersed in another language and culture will help me connect with more clients and be a better clinician. It truly set me apart and prepared me for what's next. Go Pokes!

Madeline Jablin is first year master's student studying Speech Pathology in the College of Health Sciences.



Looking back at the staircase that leads to San Juan de Gaztelugatxe Island

# FOOD AND FARM CULTURE IN FRANCE

By Cassie Fenske

Studying abroad in France through the Food and Farm Culture program has been one of the most impactful experiences at UW so far. The travel opportunities were unmatched. Visiting landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, the Catacombs, and Mont Saint-Michel...trips like these made the experience unforgettable.

Academically, I deepened my understanding of the sustainable and organic farming practices used in northwest France. Visiting vineyards and dairy farms brought classroom concepts to life in a way that differed from the United States. These hands-on experiences encouraged me to think more critically about global markets and environmental stewardship.



Cassie and fellow students in front of Eiffel Tower



Cassie and fellow students standing in front of the Castle Chateau de Chenonceau

Culturally, the trip pushed me beyond my comfort zone. Sharing meals around a dinner table with language barriers was difficult, but it helped me to appreciate other cultures more. The gastronomic meal is an important tradition within French culture, and being able to share many of them with my host family brought me new perspectives on appreciating food.

My biggest challenge was being far from home and adjusting to the 7-hour time difference. However, the opportunities, friendships, and memories made it worthwhile. I am forever grateful to have gone on this trip, and highly recommend it for those interested in global sustainable agriculture.

Cassie Fenske is majoring in Agricultural Business and minoring in Public Law.



Discover French food and farm culture: [uwyoabroad.via-trm.com](http://uwyoabroad.via-trm.com)

## HABITAT RESTORATION IN BORNEO

By Therese Turner



Therese visiting the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre, summer 2025.



Interested in Boreno?  
[uwyoabroad.via-trm.com](http://uwyoabroad.via-trm.com)

Over the past few years, I have been fortunate to engage in multiple study abroad courses through UW. These experiences have shaped me profoundly, and I have grown as a scientist, a student, and a person. In May 2025, I joined Brent Ewers on a trip to Borneo, Malaysia to study biodiversity across a chronosequence within the surrounding forested areas.

While the scientific and research components were both challenging and fascinating, the trip offered much more than just academic enrichment. To be immersed in a completely new culture and environment allowed me to meet and work alongside people from diverse backgrounds. At the station, I collaborated not only with UW students but also with students from Malaysia and various regions of the United Kingdom.

It can be difficult to be surrounded by an environment so different from your home. However, I find that this exposure was invaluable. It broadened my perspective, strengthened my confidence as a researcher, and gave me the opportunity to learn about others' home experiences while navigating a new culture myself.

Therese Turner is a senior in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

By Samantha Kilmer

Traveling abroad to the jungle of Borneo was one of the most formative experiences I've had during my studies at UW. Prior to this, I was uncertain which branch of research to pursue. After shadowing PhD students at the Danau Girang field center, I am certain wildlife research is the best destination. From assisting in camera trap placement to forestry surveys, studying abroad in Borneo provided an excellent opportunity for hands-on research.

While the course focused on research, I was also able to experience Malaysian culture as well. I was surprised by practices such as removing shoes before entering buildings and eating noodles for breakfast. The locals were welcoming and friendly, even teaching my group traditional dances and music. One day, I hope I can return and visit the people who made my stay in Borneo unforgettable.

For students interested in this opportunity, my advice is to keep an open mind, waterproof everything, and bring a good camera. Above all, I recommend you apply for this course.

Samantha Kilmer is a senior majoring in Biology and Spanish.



Transect measurement in old growth forests near Danau Girang Field Center.

# EDUCATION SUMMIT ON GLOBAL COMPETENCY

By Dianne Thompson and Dr. Leslie Rush

On May 19–20, 2025, the UW College of Education hosted the first Educator Summit on Global Competency. The event began when UW was selected to host the annual Consortium for Overseas Student Teaching (COST) conference. The COST consortium provides education majors the opportunity to complete part of their student teaching hours overseas.

As the COST conference brings participants from around the globe, the UW COST team expanded the week's programming with an additional event on global education. Supported by a grant from the Center for Global Studies and the Research and Economic Development Division, the College of Education launched the Summit.

Held in the Education Annex, the two-day Summit invited educators, administrators, faculty, staff, and students from pre-K to post-secondary education to explore global competencies through presentations, workshops, and panel discussions.

Dianne Thompson, Dr. Leslie Rush, Shelley Jewell (Director, Education Abroad), Elizabeth McMahan (Director, Student Teaching), and Meghan Monahan (Business Manager, Global Engagement Office), planned the event to foster global learning and outreach on campus and across the region.

Keynote speaker Rich Kurtzman, author of *Like a Fish in Water: How to Grow Abroad When You Go Abroad* and founder of Barcelona Study Abroad Experience, has devoted much of his career to study abroad. He led the keynote and a workshop on personal and professional growth after studying abroad.

Dianne Thompson is an Education Abroad Advisor and Dr. Leslie Rush is a Professor and Wyoming Excellence Chair in Literacy Education.



Dixie Brackman and Sonja van Harten during a session

## Summit topics included:

- International student enrollment
- Classroom diversity
- Bilingual education
- Global partnerships
- Study abroad
- Intercultural education
- Teaching overseas



*Like a Fish in Water:*  
[fishinwaterbook.com](http://fishinwaterbook.com)



The Education Abroad Team welcoming Rich Kurtzman prior to his keynote.



Violeta Himan getting her face painted



Laramie Main Street volunteers share information on Laramie Flavor Festival

# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

By Abby Lozano

International Education Week (IEW) is celebrated at UW each November. Promoting international education and cultural exchange, the initiative is run by NAFSA: Association of International Educators, the Forum on Education Abroad, and the Association of International Education Administrators.

Organized by WyoGlobal and bolstered by programs from the Center for Global Studies, International Students and Scholars, Education Abroad, the English Language Center, the International Student Association, and programs and departments across campus, IEW 2025 was a roaring success.

Activities, foods, and events brought opportunities for all students, staff, faculty, and Wyoming to explore international opportunities within UW and beyond. This year brought 29 separate events that connected Wyoming to the world through study abroad opportunities, Wyoming's history, international student's country displays, a food drive, belly dancing, and much more.

Abby Lozano, Coordinator for International Students and Scholars (ISS), helps plan and facilitate IEW each year.



Interested in being a student worker for WyoGlobal?  
[uwoy.edu/sfa/sources-of-federal-aid.html](http://uwoy.edu/sfa/sources-of-federal-aid.html)

## ISS STUDENT WORKER HIGHLIGHT

*I started working for ISS during my first year at UW, and it has been nothing short of amazing. My main job is to link and scan documents, help anyone who comes through our office door, and set up events like Wake Up Wednesday. Working with the ISS team—Maria, Jill, Danielle, Abby, and Margaret—is incredible. Working at ISS has broadened my horizons, and it's allowed me to make many new friends in the process. The memories and friends I have made here will always be ingrained in my heart.*

Jacob Clause, UW student and ISS Office Assistant



WyoGlobal team at Wakeup Wednesday



See more WyoGlobal activities:  
[flickr.com/wyoglobal/](http://flickr.com/wyoglobal/)

# A LETTER TO CELEBRATE OUR DIFFERENCES: FROM PAPUA TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

By Desire Umbora

My name is Desire Umbora, and I'm majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management. I'm an international student from Papua, Indonesia. Being in this field as an international student hasn't always been easy, most of my classmates are local and already familiar with the animals and environment here. But I've never let that discourage me. Instead, I bring a unique perspective as someone from an island rich in biodiversity. I love sharing stories about growing up surrounded by a wide variety of animals and plants native to my home. Alongside my major, I'm also pursuing a minor in Botany, because I've always enjoyed working with plants.

I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of such a supportive community. My professors and fellow students have always been helpful and kind, especially when I need extra help understanding certain topics. In the summer of 2024, I completed my internship at Double E Ranch in Cody, Wyoming. That experience was truly life-changing. I learned about wildlife management, Wyoming's culture, horseback riding, and native plant species. The ranch became one of my favorite places. I also had the chance to go on backpacking trips, something I had dreamed of since I was a child.

Looking ahead, I hope to use what I've learned to contribute to the management and conservation of wildlife and fisheries in my home country. My goal is to provide scientific data and raise awareness about the importance of maintaining a balanced ecosystem. I'm deeply thankful to God for the opportunities I've received, and I'm also grateful to UW for becoming my second home.

Desire studies Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management.



Desire on backpacking trip in the  
Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness,  
Summer 2025

“Don't be afraid to be different. Our differences are what make the University of Wyoming such a vibrant and diverse community.”

Desire Umbora



Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, Summer 2025



Immigration issues and topics:  
[uwyo.edu/iss/current-issues.html](https://uwyo.edu/iss/current-issues.html)



Department information:  
[uwyo.edu/iss/department-resources.html](https://uwyo.edu/iss/department-resources.html)



Schedule an appointment  
with ISS:  
[uw-international.appointlet.com](https://uw-international.appointlet.com)

## ISS STAFF SESSIONS FOR STUDENTS

Maria Almendares and Danielle Mahlum explain their roles in supporting students with the complex immigration process.

### Q How have you handled the new immigration policies?

M *This past spring and summer 2025, ISS held in-person sessions to inform international students about recent federal actions affecting about 3,000 international students and new visa and travel policies, including social media checks, a visa processing pause, and expanded device inspections. Separate sessions for faculty and staff focused on how to support impacted students and coordinate with ISS during this stressful time.*

### Q Was this beneficial?

M *These types of situations are incredibly stressful for students. ISS wanted to reassure students who were deeply worried about losing their visas, being unable to finish their degrees, or facing barriers to travel for education. We wanted to make sure that students had the immigration and academic support they needed, and also try to alleviate some of the stress that may be impacting their mental health and academics.*

### Q What has been the impact?

D *The impact for staff and students seemed to be pretty strong. We were able to provide clarity regarding the information we knew, but also potential outcomes and ramifications for things we didn't know as much about. Each session had a sizeable attendance, and we were pleased to be able to provide them with a safe space to ask questions during the challenging times.*

## ADVICE TO INCOMING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

By Clarisse Isabel Guimares Zimmer

My biggest challenge was getting through my first PhD semester. Coming from Germany's teamwork-based academic culture, I struggled with the competitive atmosphere in my cohort. However, with hard work and help from the professors and friends I made, I was able to adapt and persevere. Here's my advice to future students: If it feels hard or unfamiliar at first, don't give up. Find your people. I met friends through sports, the Outdoor Program, and international events, and formed a study group of locals and international students that kept me motivated. Never let anyone, not even your own doubts, define your limits. You can do far more than you think.

Clarisse is a PhD student in Economics from Germany. She came to UW for an exchange in 2023 and fell in love with the people, the landscape, and atmosphere at UW.



Clarisse snowboarding at Snowy Range  
Ski Area

# THE ACCELERATOR PROGRAM WITH WYOMING INTERNATIONAL

By Manuela Hofer-McIntyre

The Accelerator Program at UW is a dedicated program for international students that may require additional support as they transition from their home countries to Laramie. From English and Writing to Global Citizenship and Live, Learn, and Grow, our Accelerator Program offers additional courses that help ensure a smooth onboarding and progression for international students.

This program allows for a wider range of students with more diverse backgrounds to receive their education at UW. We expect to see students from more walks of life attending UW and bringing their educational aspirations to bear on our students and faculty.

We hope that, by having an Accelerator Program here on campus, all UW students will feel more connected to the world at large, and that they will ultimately have a greater impact during their studies and after graduation.

Manuela Hofer-McIntyre is Wyoming International's Managing Director and Accelerator contact at UW.



Manuela with students from the Vietnam recruitment delegation



Learn more about Wyoming International:  
[international.uwyo.edu/](https://international.uwyo.edu/)

*“Being in the Accelerator Program helps me save time while improving my English language skills and taking academic courses in my Biology major at the same time. Even though my English classes are limited, I can communicate with native speakers after class to improve my language skills. UW is a very friendly environment, and high-quality professors and my classmates make it feel like my second home.*

*I so appreciate that because my time at UW helps me expand my friend circle in a new country and allows me to be exposed to diversity opportunities. It also opens my horizon, makes me be brave in front of people, and gives me unforgettable moments with new activities like American Football matches and exploring downtown Laramie with my new friends.*

Minh Thuan Do (Lucas)

Lucas is a first year UW international student from Ho Chi Minh City and the first student participating in the Accelerator Program at UW.



Lucas at a UW Football Game, Fall 2025

## WYOGLOBAL STAFF SPOTLIGHT: JOSH MORO

By Mary Barnes



Josh speaking with a student at the South American Fair Circuit in Brazil, 2025

Every year, Education USA's South American Fair Circuit attracts thousands of students across Latin American countries, giving U.S. higher education institutions the opportunity to meet with interested students.

This past Summer 2025, Josh Moro spent three weeks traveling through South America introducing UW to students and their families. Visited countries included: Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

Josh Moro is the Assistant Director for the English Language Center and an alumni of UW. His inspiration is sparked by collaborating with diverse international students in the art of language learning.



South American Fair Circuit in Brazil, 2025



Learn more about  
Education USA:  
[educationusa.state.gov](https://educationusa.state.gov)

“Introducing the University of Wyoming to thousands of students and educators across South America was the most thrilling learning experience I’ve had in decades.

Talking with students and their families helped me realize how much we all have in common. There are cowboys and cowgirls in Brazil, in Uruguay, in Chile, in Ecuador. Not only literally, but also in essence and ethic. Their stories will help inform my methods of teaching English and working with students, whether they’re from Sheridan or Santiago.

Josh Moro

# 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:** Supports students in all credit-bearing international experiences, including study abroad, exchanges, service, research, student-teaching and academic internships. Provides guidance on funding options, coordinates scholarships and helps ensure credits transfer smoothly.

**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.