



International Studies

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**

Volume 2

Annual Newsletter

Summer 2018



Pascal Justin Bitana's Honorable Accomplishments

Pascal Justin Bitana graduated May 12, 2018 with a BA in International Studies. Bitana also earned INTS Program honors for his thesis, "Refugees and Conflict in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo." For Bitana, the honors thesis was personal. Violence and political unrest in the Democratic Republic of Congo forced his family from their home. In his honors thesis, Bitana wrote, "I was five years old when I learned what the word 'refugee' meant. It was early in 1996 that I became a refugee after a few months of being internally displaced and trekking from place to place for safety. My family and I embarked for Rwanda where we ended up in a refugee camp near the border. My first recollections are of seeing military vehicles loading refugees (mostly men) but I was very young, so I did not understand what was happening. I learned later that they were being taken to military camps to be trained to become members of rebel militias, and then sent to war in Congo." Chris Casey reported in a profile for *CU Denver Today*, "In 2012, when Bitana was in his late teens, he and a few of his brothers received refugee asylum in the United States. He was too old, 19, when he arrived in Colorado to enroll in a traditional high school, so Bitana earned his GED. Then he enrolled at the Community College of Denver (CCD), hoping to improve his English." After transferring to CU Denver, Bitana declared his major: International Studies. We are honored that he did.

Inside This Issue

- Interrogating Globalization
- New BA+MA Programs
- Tatiana Gomes
- Scholarship Winners
- Program News
- Peace Corps Prep
- Honors
- Careers Panel
- Student Accomplishments
- And more...

Learn about International Studies BA, BA+MA, and minor programs: <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/ints/>



INTS students studied this year in:
China, Germany, Guatemala, India, Japan,
Korea, Nepal, Netherlands, and Spain.

Director's Notes

The International Studies (INTS) Program is pleased to provide its second annual newsletter. In this edition, we again spotlight and celebrate the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff. INTS is the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' largest interdisciplinary program, and we are growing! INTS is a professionally-oriented program, meaning that it combines the broad knowledge gained in the liberal arts tradition with specific skills and abilities needed for successful international careers. Students combine expertise in a region of the world with coursework in a particular focus theme. With so many possibilities to pursue one's passion and interests, the Program's Assistant Director and primary advisor, Dr. Alison Shah, stays busy helping students navigate their way to degree completion. Dr. Shah has also gone the extra mile in advising transfer students from other institutions, promoting Peace Corps Prep, and liaising with partners across the university. Thank you, Alison!

One of the benefits of being an interdisciplinary program is that INTS draws talent from across the university. Dr. Faye Caronan, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Ethnic Studies, organized the event "Skype Mothers and Facebook Daughters: How Technology is Transforming Care Work in Transnational Families." This past academic year, we were able to have Dr. Betsy Jose from the Department of Political Science teach INTS 2020, Foundations of International Studies – the gateway course to the major. Dr. Jose is the 2018 Bernard Brodie Prize winner. Students rave about the teaching of Dr. Ryan Crew from the Department of History, who taught the International Studies Capstone course in the spring. In fall, core INTS faculty member, Dr. Sasha Breger Bush (Political Science) led her Capstone students in an innovative, student-directed project that culminated in the campus event described on the next page. Dr. Breger Bush earned the 2018 Excellence in Leadership and Service award from the College. In fall 2018, History's Dr. Dale Stahl will teach our Foundations course, followed in spring 2019 by Political Science's Dr. Bassem Hassan. Dr. Hassan is the winner of the campus-wide 2018 Excellence in Teaching Award. Yours truly also earned an award this year from the College for Excellence in Research and Creative Activities. Dr. Windham Loopesko and Naomi Wahls (an INTS Program alumna) lead our INTS 1111 First-Year Seminar courses. Many talented and award-winning faculty teach in the INTS Program, exposing students to the best of our academic community. We are sad to report that INTS faculty member, Dr. Michael Kozakowski, has moved back to Germany (to be closer to family), but we wish him well and thank him for his teaching and service. We will miss you, Michael!

While we appreciate our excellent faculty, our hardworking students are the heart of the INTS Program. We have dedicated funds to support students' summer study at the United Nations, study abroad, and various projects and conferences. One of our students, Arabella Lazzara, has taken a leadership role in a new student-led United Nations group. We want to do much more to help our students attain their goals, and it is vital that we do. The current U.S. administration's vision for the international order is characterized by nativism and disregard or indifference to longstanding allies, democracy, and human rights. In response, International Studies is committed to student experiences that promote openness and engagement with diverse ideas, peoples, and places. We are therefore calling on friends and alumni to support INTS students and give to the International Studies Program Fund 0321904 (see back page of this newsletter). Any amount is appreciated, and 100% of the funds received will be used to support life-changing international travel study opportunities for INTS students. In next year's newsletter, I hope to use the Director's Notes to say thank you to all of our contributors.

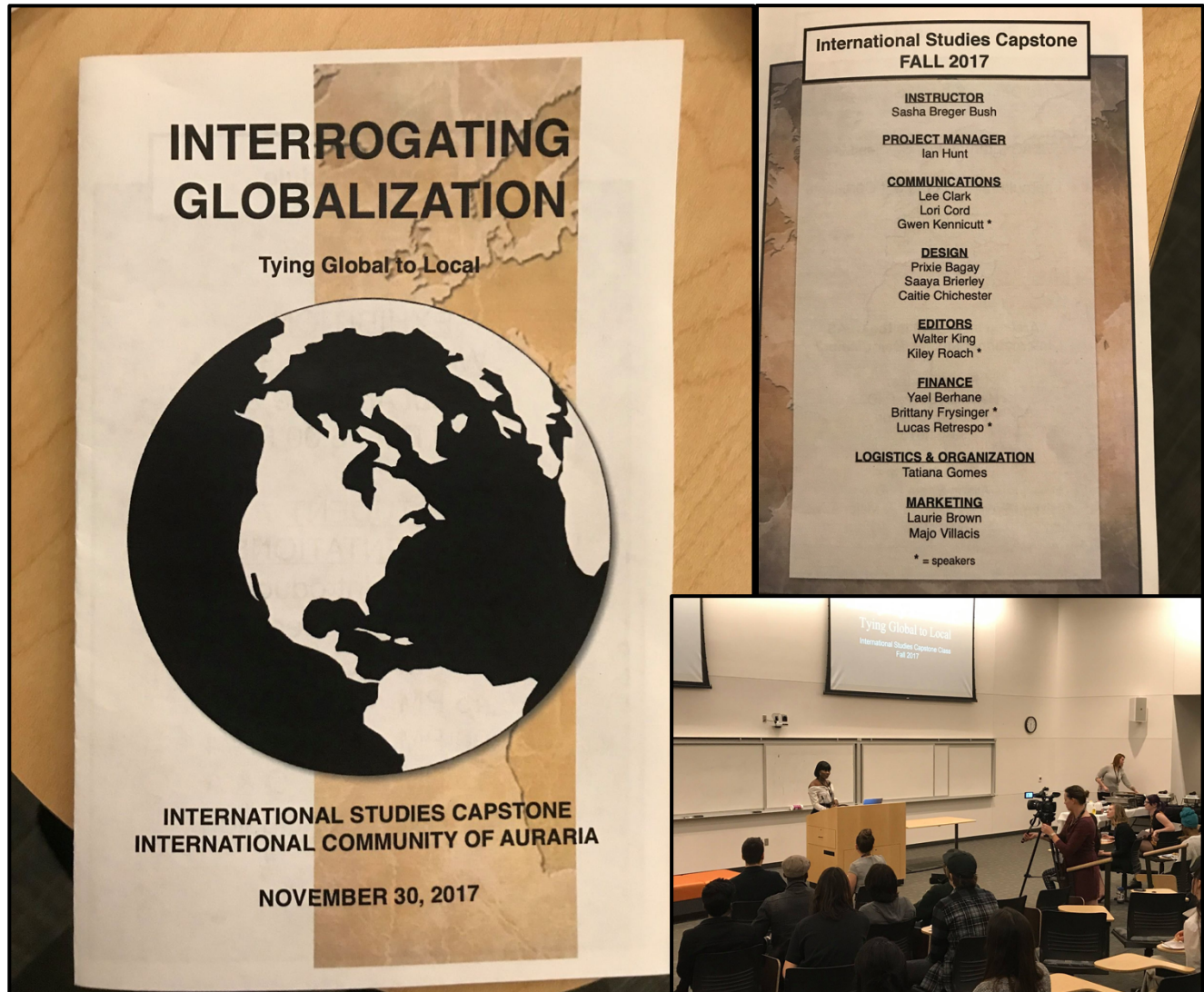
Sincerely,

Hamilton Bean
INTS Program Director



Interrogating Globalization

International Studies Capstone Course Event Ties Global to Local



Facilitated by Dr. Sasha Breger Bush, this student-organized and student-directed event—the culmination of the semester-long INTS Capstone Course—featured four student speakers on globalization whose remarks represented the overlapping research findings of all fifteen students in the course. Students created a series of interactive exhibits for attendees. These exhibits addressed globalization-related topics ranging from immigration to ideological pluralism. There were also delicious appetizers and great music to round out the event. It was an amazing night of learning and reflection.

Andrea Thorsted Earns the Erica Huss Memorial Scholarship for Global Citizenship



The Erica Huss Memorial Scholarship for Global Citizenship

SUPPORTING INTENSIVE SUMMER STUDY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

\$500 TO A CU DENVER STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UNITED NATIONS INTENSIVE SUMMER STUDY PROGRAM

Designed for advanced undergraduates, the program fosters global citizenship by immersing participants in the political dynamics of the United Nations.

This week-long program familiarizes students with the inner workings of the United Nations by bringing them together with distinguished practitioners working in the field of multilateral diplomacy. Participants attend official sessions at the United Nations' Headquarters, as well as briefings at the United Nations Association and the United Nations Foundation. Scholarship funds are applied to program tuition and travel expenses.



ABOUT ERICA

Erica Huss earned a BA in Political Science and two minors - one in International Studies, and the other in Economics - from CU Denver in 2016 before her unexpected passing. Erica was a dedicated student and active member of Phi Theta Kappa, Golden Key Honor Society, and Co-President of both the Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society and the CU Denver Department of Political Science Student Association. Her interests included international business, political economy, the U.S./Russia relationship and the study of U.S. embassies abroad.

In 2017, the Department of Political Science and the International Studies Program established The Erica Huss Memorial Scholarship for Global Citizenship to honor Erica's memory and to help, each year, a deserving CU Denver student study at the United Nations through an intensive summer program in which Erica participated and valued.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The program application website (<https://www.shu.edu/academics/united-nations-summer-program.cfm>) becomes available each February.



Students must complete the application form, essay, transcript, and letter of recommendation requirements. CU Denver students admitted to the program are automatically considered for the Scholarship. The Scholarship committee selects a recipient based on students' application materials and announces the winner at the April induction ceremony of Sigma Iota Rho, the national honor society for International Studies students. For additional information, contact CU Denver's International Studies program: (303) 315-3562 or visit clasu.ucdenver.edu/ints


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Andrea with Erica's Parents, Marshall and Robin Huss

Erica Huss (BA 2016) was working on her graduate studies when our community lost her last year. Erica was a political science major, an international studies minor, and a participant in a two-week intensive summer study program at the United Nations. Erica was also a Member of Phi Theta Kappa, Golden Key Honor Society, and Co-President of Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society. This year, Erica was granted posthumous induction in the nation's international studies honors society, Sigma Iota Rho. To honor Erica's memory, the International Studies Program and the Department of Political Science created the Erica Huss Memorial Scholarship for Global Citizenship, which provides funding for a CU Denver student to participate in the same United Nations summer program that Erica enjoyed so much.



Sigma Iota Rho

Sigma Iota Rho is the International Studies Association's official honor society at four-year colleges and universities. Inductees have distinguished themselves through high academic achievement, a passion for international studies, and a commitment to international engagement. In 1983, American University in Washington D.C., established the first chapter of *Sigma Iota Rho*. In 1989, the International Studies Association recognized *Sigma Iota Rho* and the honor society was officially incorporated. Today, *Sigma Iota Rho* maintains dozens of chapters and thousands of members throughout the United States. Membership aims to internalize the belief that our purpose for undertaking international studies is not only to position ourselves to succeed in a globalized society, but also to make the world we live in a better place through our contributions in our work and day-to-day life. INTS juniors and seniors who meet requirements are invited annually to apply to become members.



Mr. Stewart Devine, Diplomat in Residence, Rocky Mountains (CO, ID, MT, UT, WY), U.S. Department of State, congratulated the inductees and was awarded honorary membership. Pictured (left to right): Stewart Devine, Evelin Kovacs, Caitlin Chichester, Felita Reed, Alicia Almanza, and Hamilton Bean. Not pictured: Apichanya Intakantee, Feven Enkuselasse, Mattie Stubbe, Eunsol Kim, Vanessa Campuzano, and Esther Bellinsky.

International Studies Offers New BA+MA Programs

BA in International Studies + MA in Political Science Program

The accelerated Master's program in Political Science is an expedited program of study that allows students to complete a Bachelor's degree in International Studies and a Master's degree in Political Science in as little as five years. High-achieving undergraduates can apply to the program any time after achieving Junior standing. Upon acceptance, students are allowed to take graduate-level courses during their remaining semesters of undergraduate study. These classes count both towards satisfying requirements of the BA in International Studies major and the Master's degree in Political Science. Students may take up to 5 dual-counted graduate seminars in this way so that by the time the student completes their undergraduate degree, they are already half-way finished with their Master's degree. This program is intended for outstanding undergraduate International Studies majors who have demonstrated graduate level academic ability and can conduct graduate-quality work as undergraduates. Interested students should meet with an International Studies program advisor to learn more.

BA in International Studies + MA in Master of Humanities and Master of Social Science

Because both the International Studies Major (INTS) and the Master of Humanities/Master of Social Science (MHMSS) programs are interdisciplinary by design (i.e., students do coursework in multiple departments), their curricular goals are similar, making them a good match for a BA to Master fast-track program. Students can pursue a Master of Humanities or Master of Social Science degree with a concentration in Social Justice, Ethnic Studies, Philosophy and Social Theory, or Women and Gender Studies via focused tracks in either of these two master degree plans. INTS students interested in participating apply for either the MH or MSS degree no earlier than their first semester of junior-year standing as an undergraduate. Upon acceptance, students take five graduate-level courses beginning the second semester of their junior year and continuing during the whole of their senior year. These classes "double count," satisfying requirements for both the BA major and the Master degree in Humanities or Social Science. They would then continue graduate studies in the MH or MSS degree plan with concentration in a chosen area if so desired to complete their master degree by the conclusion of their fifth year in CLAS at CU Denver. This program is intended for outstanding undergraduate students in International Studies majors who have graduate-level skills and can do graduate-quality work as undergraduates. It is thus not appropriate for all majors; students would therefore have to apply and be accepted into the program.

THE CU DENVER POLITICAL SCIENCE 4 + 1 MA PROGRAM

for Advanced Undergraduate Political Science or International Studies Majors

**Earn your Master's Degree in as little as 1 year of graduate study
in our combined undergraduate + Master's Degree Program**

The 4+1 accelerated Master's program in Political Science is an expedited program of study that allows students to complete a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Political Science in as few as 5 years.

Majors in either Political Science or International Studies are invited to apply to the program.

High-achieving undergraduates can apply to the program anytime after achieving Junior standing. Upon acceptance, students are allowed to take graduate-level courses during their remaining semesters of undergraduate study. These classes count BOTH towards satisfying requirements of the BA major and the Master's degree in Political Science.

Students may take up to 5 dual-counted graduate seminars in this way, so that by the time the student completes their undergraduate degree, they are already half-way done with their Masters degree.

This program is intended for outstanding undergraduate Political Science and International Studies majors who have demonstrated graduate-level academic skills and can do graduate-quality work as undergraduates.



Benefit From

- Award-winning faculty in such fields as: International Studies, Local Civic Engagement & Public Leadership, Community Organizing & Development, and Indigenous Politics.
- Completing 15 of 30 required graduate credits concurrently with undergraduate studies
- Enhanced Career Prospects as a Master of Political Science
- Guided Research with Faculty Mentor
- Opportunities for professional internships and community-based action research
- Funded teaching & research assistant positions

Annual **Careers** in International Studies Panel



Our Regional Peace Corps Recruiter, Cedar Wolf, can assist with planning for Peace Corps, and the INTS Program offers a Peace Corps Prep Certificate to help students gain an advantage in the hiring process.

Each fall, the INTS Program organizes a Careers in International Studies Panel.

This year, we were joined by: Stewart Devine Diplomat-in-Residence for the Rocky Mountain Region; Barbara Guglielminotti Valetta, ECDC/African Community Center; Merrily "Missy" Kautt, University of Colorado Denver Business School; and Natalia Wobst, Executive Director of the German American Chamber of Commerce. Thanks go to Dr. Michael Kozakowski for assembling our distinguished group of panelists (as well as to Dr. Erica Ferg Muhaisen for recommending Mr. Devine). Cedar Wolf, our regional Peace Corps Recruiter, joined as well. Much appreciation to Lori Cord for the pics!

Armed with Hope

Originally published in *CU Today* by Debra Melani, University Communications, May 9, 2018

– “I’ve learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.”

The words of renowned poet Maya Angelou could describe the way CU Denver student Tatiana Gomes will feel when she holds her hard-earned diploma in her hands for the first time at Saturday’s 2018 Spring Commencement Ceremonies. Gomes, whose journey from a small Angolan town to the university’s commencement platform was rife with challenges, often used the writings of the civil-rights activist for inspiration. After also learning about “hope” from her other role model—her mother—Gomes framed her life around the faith-based word. “My mom never lost hope,” said Gomes, whose father fought in the Angolan civil war and later moved to the United States. “Despite tough struggles, she raised three good women,” Gomes said. “And I feel like hope, especially for minority women, is what Maya Angelou is talking about.”

Holding onto hope

Gomes, who will accept a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies (INTS) with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa this weekend, plans to complete

a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health next fall. Then she’ll do what she always intended to do: go back to her country still recovering from decades of war, helping and inspiring others who are less fortunate. “I knew I had to study something that would impact my community and my family and

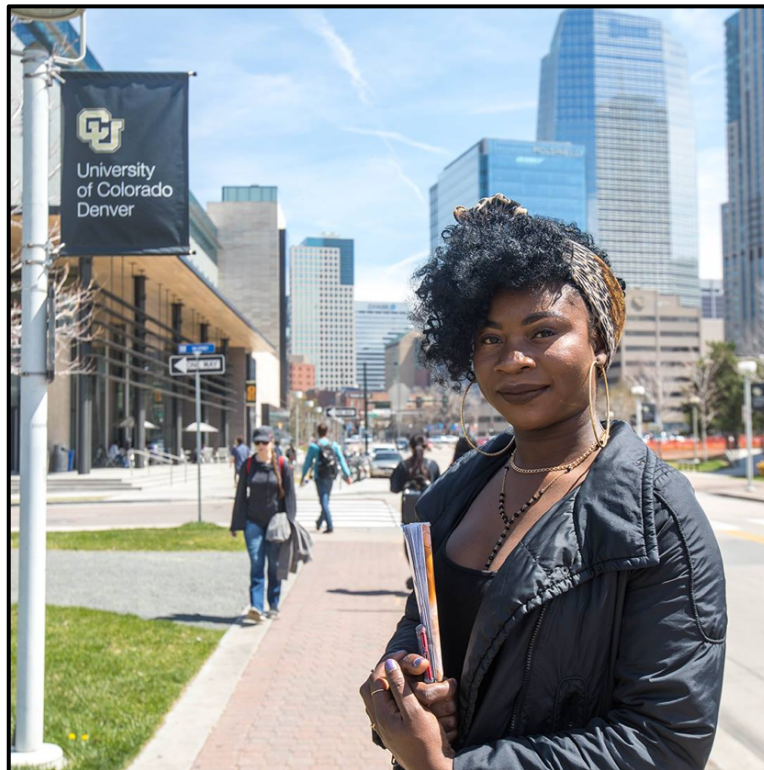
scarce among her classmates, Gomes used hard work and her infectious positive attitude to fuel a college dream, encouraging others to join her in her vision. “We can do this,” she would tell them.

Keeping the faith

After graduating, Gomes moved

to Denver with her sister, where they rented an apartment with only \$50 to spare. It was a scary time, she said. But the two were fighters, and Gomes quickly found a job at Wal-Mart, where she would work 50-plus hours a week during college. “I was happy every single day I worked. I told myself I had only 50 dollars once, and I’m not going back.” Pondering community

college, Gomes stumbled upon CU Denver while exploring its campus in the heart of the city. She found its science buildings, learned it had a health program and sensed it held her future. “It just felt like it was the place I had to be,” Gomes said. So certain it was her destiny, Gomes applied only to CU Denver. Then her application was denied. “I was heartbroken,” she said. Gomes called the admissions office



friends who are left there because, essentially, I’m the lucky one. I got the opportunity to study in the United States. That’s what kept me going.” Before coming to Denver, Gomes attended an underprivileged high school in Los Angeles, where one teacher assured her class they would all “end up in jail or married to someone in jail.” She and her sister had moved to California to join their father in 2011 in search of an education. Finding hope

right away. “I remember I cried on the phone, and I said: I swear, this is where I’m meant to be.” Many tearful calls later, Gomes got a call back. “Come to the school to pick up your acceptance letter,” she was told. When handing Gomes her letter, the director who made the decision said: “You are so persistent, and you sound like you know what you want to do. Now go and do it.”

Gaining guidance

But Gomes’ celebration was short-lived. She soon learned first-year students must live with a parent or on campus. “My sister was all I had, and I couldn’t afford student housing,” Gomes said. And the tears returned. This time, however, Gomes had an advocate: the TRiO Student Support Services on campus, whose office would become a fixture during her time at CU Denver. The federally-funded TRiO programs are aimed at guiding first-generation, low-income and minority students, as well as students with disabilities, toward success. “I went in and was like: You guys have to help me with this. I tried so hard to get here,” said Gomes, who has since served as a mentor for the program and as president of the Society of TRiO Students Club. “From then on, they helped me every step of the way.” With the aid of TRiO, Gomes completed two independent studies in Sub-Saharan health, returning to her native country to assess the effects of the Civil War on the health system and traveling to another region to collect health data on infectious diseases.

‘I kept that hope in me’

No stranger to the communicable illnesses and

lack of accessible health care that plague her country, losing friends and family to diseases, such as yellow fever, and suffering malaria herself, Gomes wants to return to improve public health either as an epidemiologist or a physician. “There’s a dire need for doctors,” said Gomes, who plans to teach her community preventative measures, from washing hands to using mosquito nets. “People are dying from things they shouldn’t be dying from.” Wherever her

next step leads, Gomes said she will come back to Denver, pausing a moment to fight back tears. “Denver is home: the people, the university, TRiO,” she said. “They all helped me so much. “It was extremely hard,” Gomes said of both her life and college journey, which she began barely knowing English. “But it made me who I am today. And I kept that hope in me in some mysterious way.”



Aria Gehman and Esther Bellinsky Earn
INTS **Global Crossroads** Scholarships



Aria and Esther each earned \$1,000 International Studies Global Crossroads Scholarships. This summer, Aria studied peace and justice in Guatemala, and Esther intends to study terrorism, refugee mental health, Arabic, and Hebrew in Haifa, Israel. Thank you, Aria and Esther, for your commitment to international studies and for representing our program. Thanks also go to CU Denver's Office of International Affairs and Office of Global Education in matching International Studies Program funding, allowing Aria and Esther to both study abroad.



Noteworthy

Felita Reed completed an internship at the Unionhilfswerk refugee shelter in Lichtenberg, Berlin (Germany). It is home to over 455 residents who speak 27 different languages. Over half of the refugees are children. She writes, “In the Fall of 2017, I was able to intern at this shelter with another CU Denver student as a part of the *CU Denver in Berlin - Bridging Global Divides* semester long program in Berlin, Germany. We were asked by our internship supervisor to come up with a project that incorporated art and the youth of the shelter. After proposing a few ideas, we were able to plan and paint a mural in one of the lobbies to bring some more color into the shelter. The mural took almost three months to coordinate and complete. For the photo, we planned a photography trip to teach the older children basic photography skills and then the building owners decided which photo would be painted. The teenagers and a resident artist helped us to prepare the wall and paint the mural. It was a wonderful experience and I would definitely recommend an internship abroad to any student majoring in International Studies.”



Students find valuable professional networks at the Posner Center. INTS offers a 1-credit, student-directed professional development course. Thanks to **Maria José Villacis** for the pic! →

← **Emily Provensa** earned a prestigious internship at the U.S. Embassy in London.

Shout out to our program honors thesis writers: **Pascal Justin Bitana**, “Refugees and Conflict in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo;” **Brittany Frysinger**, “Social and Cultural Motivations for Mexican Migration: Single, Childless Women;” **Alanna Jones**, “Heritage for Hire: An

Analysis of the Impacts of Cultural Heritage Tourism and the Tourism Industry on the Developing World;”

Kiley Roach, “The Silent Genocide: Polarization, Forfeiture, and Resurgence: The Story of the Guatemalan Civil War;” and **Maria José Villacis**, “Neoliberalism and the Mexican Drug War.”

Congratulation to **Cameron Malby**, who earned a spot at the China Careers Summit in Washington, DC. →





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1201 Larimer Street
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