I’m Caitlin Caron (’08, MAT ’10) and many of you probably know me in my role as the Coordinator of Leadership Programs for the Centennial Center for Leadership, but I also run the Writing Table in IC on Sunday and Wednesday nights. When I was asked to run the Writing Table, I was thrilled at the prospect of working with students and their writing again. Being a Writing Colleague was a defining characteristic of my undergraduate experience at William Smith. I did five Writing Colleague placements and in each placement was able to experience the depth and breadth of students, professors, and courses that HWS has to offer. As a student in the Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program, I focused my thesis and research on the writing process and Writing Colleagues Program. While doing my MAT work, I also worked as a Writing Colleague in the Center for Teaching and Learning. All of these opportunities to work with student writing and research the importance of the writing process have helped me cultivate a strong passion for working with students and their writing. The Writing Table is a great space for students to come and get some one-on-one assistance with any stage of their writing process about how to organize and structure their essays. I think it is also great that the Writing Table is located in the IC because it is such a warm and welcoming environment for students. My favorite feature about the Writing Table is getting to meet so many students and having an impact on how they think about writing. There is no greater feeling than seeing students have a “light bulb” moment of realization about the true purpose of their essay because of our conversation. Moreover, the Writing Table has impacted my work in the Centennial Center for Leadership because so many students who come to the Writing Table are leaders on the HWS campus. I am able to encourage them to get involved with the HWS Leads Certificate Program and other leadership initiatives happening on campus. In this way, I am able to create some crossover from the IC and the Writing Table to my role in the Centennial Center for Leadership. And that is one of the best parts about HWS: the ability to work collaboratively with different offices and departments on campus to create an outstanding and connected experiences for all students.

Karen Frost-Arnold, Philosophy Dept.

What does Intercultural Affairs at HWS mean to me? It means community. Since I arrived on campus, the Intercultural Affairs office has connected me to my community. Whether it be joining Sankofa for Kwanzaa and the Charity Ball or meeting with Pride Alliance to learn how faculty can support LGBT students on campus, participating in events with Intercultural Affairs has taught me about the HWS community. The Intercultural Affairs office also has deep roots in the Geneva community. As a relatively new resident of Geneva, I have relied heavily on Intercultural Affairs to introduce me to community leaders and teach about the many assets and concerns of my new home.

HWS has some amazing student leaders, and Intercultural Affairs provides a vital service in supporting their efforts. Not only do our student leaders support each other, their peers at HWS, and the greater Geneva and global communities, but our student leaders are a terrific resource for faculty. Last semester, I asked Darline Polanco to connect me to student leaders willing to talk to my Philosophy & Feminism class. Just a few days later, five student leaders kindly visited my class to talk about the importance of valuing difference and what being part of a cultural club on campus means to them. This visit was a great learning experience for both me and my students. Knowing how busy HWS students are, I was impressed that these leaders would take the time to visit my class. Intercultural Affairs has also been a resource for me to connect to the Geneva community. Last year I was part of the 2015 strategic planning group on engaged citizenship. This dynamic group of faculty, staff, students and administrators spent many months investigating how HWS ought to partner with the greater Geneva community. As part of our efforts, we planned to meet with a group of community leaders and citizens from the area. Alessandra Molina and Scarlett Emerson from Intercultural Affairs helped us reach out to a diverse group of community members, and our strategic plan was improved as a result of our meeting with them. Getting to know both the HWS and Geneva communities makes me a better teacher, a more responsible researcher, and a more engaged citizen. I am grateful for the support from Intercultural Affairs in these areas.
The Office of Residential Education has seen a lot of change this year. We started the year by welcoming four new professionals to the department: Area Coordinators, Jason Boring and Darnell Pierce; Assistant Director of Housing Operations, Brandon Barile; and me as Director. We joined the following Res Ed staff members who were continuing in their years of service to the HWS community: Area Coordinator, Marissa Miller; Assistant Director of Residential Education, Kristen Tobey; and Coordinator, Susan Lincoln.

The team quickly went about the work of training the incoming student staff and preparing to welcome first year and returning students to the campus residences. There were many challenges to be overcome but plenty of opportunities for growth and improvement were seized along the way as well. The Area Coordinator staff worked closely with the Resident Assistants and Community Coordinators to provide engaging programming for the residents. Programs like Pink Week, Jump Rope for Red, Pull Ups for Purple, You’ve Got Meal, Taste of the Worlds, Sub Free End of the Year BBQ and others were all ways the staff was able to collaborate with student clubs and organizations, local vendors, national organizations and other campus offices to raise awareness, encourage involvement and support worthy causes.

As we prepare to close the campus residences for this year and recognize the hard work and accomplishments of graduating seniors, we also begin to look forward to next year. We look forward to working with Intercultural affairs to bring diversity training to the staff and continue to collaborate on programs and activities that we bring into campus residences. There are innumerable opportunities for us to take use the skills, talents and abilities of HWS faculty, staff and students to enrich the experiences of every community member. As we ready ourselves for the 2011-2012 academic year, we believe we will see many more active programs that will positively impact HWS students.

Our Campus Community

The Festival of Nations, now in its 4th year, had a new chair this year, Nikki Kersbergen, an English teacher at Geneva High School. She has been teaching in the Geneva District for 3 years and has previously taught in NYC where she was involved in similar multicultural events. This year, the festival drew in almost 3000 visitors (triple last year’s attendance). Its purpose is to celebrate the diversity of this community and bring the community, HWS and the Geneva school district together with a common vision. It was such a huge success this year mostly because of the collaboration between HWS and the Geneva School District. Many HWS staff volunteered to make this event amazing: Mary Gearan, Erica Connor, Edith Wormley, Pat Heieck, Tammy Pillsbury, Mary LeClair and Darline Polanco, just to name a few. Edith Wormley, from the Intercultural Affairs office was an instrumental player in the cook-off that preceded the festival. She helped to organize HWS volunteers and pair them with Geneva students to prepare recipes to be served at the festival.

There were tables representing the cultural diversity that makes up the city of Geneva. This year, the Multicultural Club decorated different zones to represent the different cultures and HWS students had tables in the corresponding zones to educate others about their culture. In the Asian zone, Showtime Joe Hatfield made Asian inspired food and Gerald Scott made Mac and Cheese and Spanish Rice. Each zone had food, decorations, music and activities that were unique to that culture. Nearly all of the HWS campus cultural clubs were present at the festival, including: Asian Student Union, the Caribbean Student Association, the Chinese Culture Club, Hillel, the French Heritage Club, the International Student Union, the Irish Heritage Club, the Latin American Organization, Project Nur and Sankofa. None of this would have been possible without the enthusiasm, collaboration, and expertise of the Multicultural Club and the Intercultural Affairs staff and students at HWS. Next year, we hope to continue this success by offering even more cultural events.
I had always envisioned myself in pursuing a career of law; that is until I studied abroad. I was rewarded the Gilman Scholarship to go study abroad in Hong Kong. While there, I volunteered at a women migrant worker refugee shelter. Many of the women I met originated from either the Philippines or Indonesia and were employed by agencies to work in Hong Kong as domestic workers. As a volunteer, I heard some of these ladies’ stories and wrote legal statements that they took with them to court to file their law suits. Although the organization that I volunteered for (Mission for Migrant Workers) focused more on the legal aspect of resorting justice, what I enjoyed most were the therapeutic cross-stitching sessions where many of the migrant workers opened up and spoke of their struggles. From this experience, I knew a career in psychology would have been a better fit for me because being a psychologist enables you to get to know a person in a much deeper level than you ever could working as a lawyer. If it wasn’t for studying abroad, I wouldn’t have been able to learn something new about myself and my new found passion in the field of psychology.

As an Asian Languages and Cultures major, my focus is on Japanese and Chinese history, culture, art, and language, but there has always been room for Tibet. In 2009 Prof. Tenzin Yignyen approached me with an idea to write a grant proposal to study Tibetan traditional art at its source, Tibet. In 2010 Tenzin, four other students and myself were awarded a grant from the Freeman Foundation and ASIANetwork. However we were quickly met with bad news, we had been denied access to Tibet. In the end we were granted permission to carry out our research in India. In the three weeks we were there, not only did we do in-depth research – my own topic being “Tibetan Traditional Dress and the Creation of Self in Exile.” I recently went to ASIANetwork’s annual conference in Chicago where the project finally came to an end. Overall this experience helped to expand my worldviews and my understanding of a people not so different from us. This trip taught me that you can really do anything if you put your mind to it, it might not be easy, but it is important to persevere.

I am eternally grateful for the opportunity I had to study abroad in Cape Town, South Africa. It transformed my mind, my heart and my future. As a senior William Smith student, Africana Studies major, I can say that the six months I spent living in Cape Town caused a metamorphosis I never anticipated. My opinions and thoughts of "charity", development, post-development and Westernization changed several times and are still being altered. I studied at The University of the Western Cape, historically a so-called "colored” university, thus making myself a minority as an American. A professor of mine challenged and birthed a new heart and mind in me. He and I still stay in touch and debate about Chomsky, Freire and Marx. My transition back to America was depressing and painful. I was a human-being as opposed to the human-doing sink into. The most salient lesson I learned pertains to the African principle of ubuntu. In Sparknotes terms, it means the essence of humanity; recognizing that we are all connected and responsible for one another. It is the epitome of selflessness. It reminds me to slow down, reflect and step back to see the WHOLE picture. This is an important lesson we all need to be reminded of every once in a while. Who would have thought a six month experience would have had such a life-altering impact?

There was a big question in my mind about my prospects for jobs after graduating from HWS. I had decided to go back home to be able to contribute in Nepal. This was the best decision I could have made. I was inspired with the organic farming I had done in HWS and carried this inspiration with me. I continued farming in Nepal and learned more from the local farmers in the area. I was also offered job at Winrock International, as a National Consultant on the potential for climate change mitigation in Nepal. I also started an organic shop in Nepal. The website for the shop is: www.khetibazaar.com. My diverse education in HWS has helped me continue to be open and, therefore, I have learned more even post-HWS. Currently, I am enrolled in a 2 year MSc Environmental Forestry programme (1st year: Wales, UK ; 2nd year: Italy). I am continuing my traveling experiences. I cannot emphasize enough about the need for having an open attitude to life in order to experience all that comes along and to be able to contribute to the world.
SPRING 2011 Calendar

Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration
January 19- Friday, January 22
Finding Your Way, Life After Graduation
February 10, 7:30 p.m.
Alger L. Adams ’31 Academic Excellence Dinner
February 17, 5:30 p.m.
Paying Your Loans After HWS
February 24, 7 p.m.
International Women’s Day
Rebranding Islam: Women Headscarf and Islamic Identity in Malaysia
March 8, 5 p.m.
Buenos Aires and the Cartoneros Movement
March 30, 5 p.m.
Keeping Art Alive: Tibet’s Traditional Art in Exile
April 4, 5 p.m.
Taste of the Worlds
April 17, 4 p.m.
International Experience Student Panel
April 27, 5 p.m.
Community Conversation with Leigh Pitifer ’84
Dealing with Stress and Exercise Day
May 4, 4:30 p.m.
LiNK Global Organization Film Showing
May 6, 7 p.m.
Ice Cream Social & Senior Photo
May 12, 3 p.m.
HWS Classes of 2011 Reception
May 14, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Intercultural Affairs Programming

The Cross-Cultural Coffee Hour gives students a chance to talk informally about their experiences of crossing borders. Past presenters include Hannah Stoll ’11, Andrew Upton ‘12 and Emma Pierce Schell ’12.

The Fireside Chat with Faculty gives students the opportunity to listen to faculty discuss their research in an informal setting. Past presenters include Susanne McNally (History), Jeff Anderson (Anthropology), Irakli Kakabadze (Political Science) and Helen McCabe (Education).

International Experience Student Panel students share their experiences from abroad such as internships, alternative spring breaks and volunteerism. Past presenters include Julisa Whitley ‘11, Andrew Upton ’12, Lisa Philippone ’11, Melody Acosta ’12 and Shanelle France ’11.

The Writing Table faculty of the Writing and Rhetoric Program hold one-on-one sessions weekly with students who need support with their writing skills.

Community Conversation community leaders from the Geneva Community are invited to have conversations with students. Conversations span from careers after college, current events and local issues. This spring, our guest included Leigh Pitifer ’84 from the Colleges’ Recreational and Wellness Department.

Warm Wednesdays with Wormley provide an opportunity for students to enjoy a nice warm meal prepared by our very own “Chef” (Assistant Director of Opportunity Programs Edith Wormley) and conversation with guest HWS staff.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE @ IC
- The Advocate
- The Black Collegian
- Colorlines
- Crisis
- Hyphen
- Islamic Horizons
- Native Peoples
- Yes!