Leadership as Inclusive Learning

by Amy Forbes, Centennial Center for Leadership

I get tremendous joy from my work. Although I’ve only been at Hobart and William Smith Colleges for a short time, it is clear to me that HWS is a place that welcomes thoughtful initiatives, values inclusive environments and consistently strives to ready our students to take on challenges of significance and meaning. The commitment to developing ethical, value-driven leaders who have the capacity to work within and across difference is evident to me everyday. I find the climate here exciting, particularly because students are so hungry for comprehensive leadership development. Each semester, the Centennial Center for Leadership enrolls a new cohort into our HWS Leads certificate program. Being a part of their compelling classroom discussions, reminds me to be a continual learner, and that exposure to diverse ideas, multiple perspectives and a variety of voices is essential for leadership growth and personal discovery. Whether planning a class, developing a program or designing new content, I am conscious that today’s leaders must be prepared to navigate the complexities of globalization, the challenges of interconnected societies as well as new industries, tumultuous markets and systemic social issues. Before that, however, leaders must engage self-reflection and service on behalf of others. By cultivating those experiences for students, I have been so enriched. As the Centennial Center for Leadership continues to expand, I am grateful for the colleagues I have met here at the Colleges like the wonderful staff at the Intercultural Affairs who share my passion for leadership development as well as a value of inclusive learning. I admired their approach to community, student-centered service and substantive programming. The relationship is an example of the extraordinary collaboration that takes place on campus across offices.

As a scholar of race and religion in American history, I have a special place in my heart for Intercultural Affairs at HWS. One of my central pedagogical goals in courses I teach is to help students, and particularly white students, 1) to understand the many ways that white racism toward other Americans has shaped US history, 2) to learn how racism often functions in collaboration with sexism, heterosexism, and a host of other “isms” that are based on unequal distributions of power, and 3) to develop lifelong intellectual and political commitments to ending racism, sexism and heterosexism. Through Intercultural Affairs, students have many opportunities to apply what they learn in the classroom to real-life situations. There they encounter speakers and community leaders who describe their own struggles in the world, who represent outstanding organizations committed to progressive causes, and who share what they have learned through meeting different kinds of people around the world. Through IC activities, students connect with the world in a very different way than in classes—they are more casual atmosphere allows students a chance to breathe. There they can compare what they are learning in coursework to the experiences of speakers, to their own experiences in specific projects and activities, and to other students who are thinking through big questions about the human condition. At IC students can make friends with others who have lived substantive-different lives than they have, and travel the world while never even setting foot off campus. The IC provides a critical space for learning and relaxing, and for creating community, and students, faculty and staff alike would be wise to enjoy some of the many benefits that it brings to HWS.

Our Faculty’s Perspective

by Fay Botham, Religious Studies

Our Campus Community

Geneva Community

Page 2: Our Faculty's Perspective

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I get tremendous joy from my work. Although I’ve only been at Hobart and William Smith Colleges for a short time, it is clear to me that HWS is a place that welcomes thoughtful initiatives, values inclusive environments and consistently strives to ready our students to take on challenges of significance and meaning. The commitment to developing ethical, value-driven leaders who have the capacity to work within and across difference is evident to me everyday. I find the climate here exciting, particularly because students are so hungry for comprehensive leadership development. Each semester, the Centennial Center for Leadership enrolls a new cohort into our HWS Leads certificate program. Being a part of their compelling classroom discussions, reminds me to be a continual learner, and that exposure to diverse ideas, multiple perspectives and a variety of voices is essential for leadership growth and personal discovery. Whether planning a class, developing a program or designing new content, I am conscious that today’s leaders must be prepared to navigate the complexities of globalization, the challenges of interconnected societies as well as new industries, tumultuous markets and systemic social issues. Before that, however, leaders must engage self-reflection and service on behalf of others. By cultivating those experiences for students, I have been so enriched. As the Centennial Center for Leadership continues to expand, I am grateful for the colleagues I have met here at the Colleges like the wonderful staff at the Intercultural Affairs who share my passion for leadership development as well as a value of inclusive learning. I admired their approach to community, student-centered service and substantive programming. The relationship is an example of the extraordinary collaboration that takes place on campus across offices.

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At the Center for Community Engagement & Service-Learning (CCESL), we have the privilege of convening HWS students, staff, faculty and Geneva Community Partners, in mutually beneficial service and engagement endeavors. CCESL stands for learning through service, and supports civically engaged students who will become graduates committed to leading lives as active global citizens.

I have been the Director of CCESL since 2004 and I believe I’m lucky to have one of the best jobs on campus. I am also very happy to have Assistant Director Jeremy Wattles, AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer Kelsey Lagana WS’10 and our newly appointed Program Coordinator Shayne Feinberg as part of the CCESL team.

Together we have worked on a number of projects, some of which have crossed paths with Intercultural Affairs. Some of the highlights for CCESL thus far have been coordinating the Community Engaged Research Forum, facilitating the service-learning program, and Engaged Citizenship Speaker Series. More recently, I facilitated a component of an initiative from the President’s Office named “Geneva 2020,” which aims to collaboratively address challenges identified by the Geneva City School District. I was able to collaborate with the IC by having students from the IC assist in welcoming students to campus, and serving as tour guides and panelists, all palpable ways that promote the ideals and potential inherent in a college education.

Also, Jeremy has organized a service themed Pre-Orientaion Adventure Program opportunity with Habitat for Humanity and coordinated three playground service projects during Orientation weekend in conjunction with Convocation speaker, Darrel Hammond, CEO of Kaboom! Among other highlights, over the past two years, Kelsey has completed over 3,000 hours of service to and with the Geneva community, has committed extensively to the volunteer recruitment at the Boys and Girls Club, supported CCESL’s team of Civic Leaders, and helped create a sustainable literacy coalition, Geneva Reads, which she was also able to recruit Darline Polanco from the IC as Marketing Chair of the board. Other programs through which we partnered with the IC included Geneva’s Festival of Nations and Day for Kids Sake.

I appreciate the developing partnership between Intercultural Affairs and CCFL. We recognize that together we can address or identify issues that are unique within the confines of the campus and the Geneva community and the relationship between the two. It is also important to note that the students that we have worked with are going to leave here and there is a great potential for them to make an impact where they will ultimately live—this meets the greater goals of action. I think we really need to recognize how blessed we are as a community to have this resource. This year, we were able to focus our energies around the issues of housing through a program called Just Neighbors, an initiative that developed out of issues raised in the Conference on Poverty in October 2010. Working together through Just Neighbors led to a Community-Based Research project, supervised by CCFL, for students in the Sociology Senior Seminar. The investment of time from the IC and the students in the seminar will help us have a long and lasting impact on our ability to address low income housing needs in Geneva.

Catholic Charities Mission of Catholic Charities: To provide programs and services for individuals in need, especially children and families and to advocate for social justice.

When we look at our partnership with IC, often times the very individuals Catholic Charities serves, are reflective of the diverse individuals Intercultural Affairs also seeks to support, i.e., women, families, immigrants, first generation students. When IC invites a speaker such as Padre Alejandro from the migrant shelter in Mexico to address issues of central American migrants, those [the migrants] are often individuals that are coming through our doors.

I think the value for this community is that IC, as part of the greater Colleges community, takes conversation to a higher level. They help to create an informed community that ultimately can use that knowledge in the form of
I am currently a senior and my time here has been challenging, insightful and overall full of activity as I have been working towards a double major in Economics and International Relations, have served as a Resident Assistant and been the President of the International Students Association. All these things have opened up an array of opportunities for me in these past four years. In addition to these on campus experiences, I have also had the opportunity to study and intern in Washington DC, New York City, and Hong Kong. In the summer after my junior year, I had the opportunity to pursue a unique internship that entailed working with two companies (DFS and COACH), both leaders in the luxury retail industry, in New York City, Hong Kong and Macau. I spent two months at the DFS Global Merchandising Office in Hong Kong. My primary responsibility was to understand the tastes, preferences and shopping pattern/behavior of Chinese customers, and thereby assist COACH in achieving its goals to increase its market share in China. This involved me conducting background research through sales reports and closely monitoring/observing Chinese customers in COACH stores in Hong Kong and Macau. This internship was truly an eye-opening experience, because although I have had the opportunity to intern with companies such as PepsiCo and Deloitte in the past, this was my first internship in the retail industry. My experience at DFS and COACH has certainly enabled me to broaden my career avenues by opening up the world of luxury retail. Thanks to the support of Bob Murphy, the Salisbury Center for Career Services, and the President’s Office, I was able to have a wonderful internship experience.

There are moments in life when you find yourself completely lost, afraid, and disoriented. Being in a foreign country not speaking the language, knowing the culture, or having any friends is a feeling that can’t be described using words; it can only be understood through experience. I experienced that feeling first when I moved to the U.S ten years ago and once again during my semester abroad in South Korea last year. I remember feeling excitement for the unknown journey ahead, the rare opportunity to live as a student in a foreign country, learning a new language and culture, making new friends, savoring foreign foods and relearning all social norms. South Korea taught me how to be independent, how to rely on myself, but most importantly it helped me realize that all humans have something in common, a desire to connect and socialize. I befriended Koreans and people from all over the world, we collaborated on projects, and practiced Korean, English, Norwegian, Spanish and Mandarin. As a sociologist I recognized that many of the most compelling problems faced in the U.S such as poverty, homelessness, gender inequality and racism continue to be present in South Korea much more than in the U.S. However, I did not let that affect my experience abroad in any way. I finalized my semester abroad by attempting to bike across the country from the capital, Seoul, in the north to the second largest city in the south, but I only made it halfway down the country due to weather conditions and time constrains. Overall, South Korea helped me grow as a person and to gain a wider understanding of the world; it was truly one of the best experiences in my life.

ALUMNI/AE CONNECTIONS

Americorps VISTA

by Kelsey Lagana e/o 2010

As a student, I was fortunate to gain the opportunity to work for the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning (CCESL) as the Civic Leader for Literacy. I assisted CCESL’s Director, Katie Flowers, in organizing the America Reads program and served as an honorary board member on Geneva Reads, our community’s literacy coalition. These experiences prepared me to transition into the role as the HWS AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) position in CCESL after graduation in May, 2010. AmeriCorps is a national program which focuses on poverty relief efforts and VISTA is one of the spokes on its complex wheel programs under the purview of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Throughout the past two years, I have been able to engage with the Geneva community in a variety of ways that have given me a greater appreciation for the place which hosts HWS. The primary objectives of my VISTA work-plan was to assist Geneva Reads on developing the organization’s sustainability, establish a volunteer program at the Boys and Girls Club of Geneva, recruit students for the honorary board program, and lastly to collaborate with offices garnering students for one time community service events. I had the pleasure of working with the Intercultural Affairs office on three events: Day for Kids Sake, the Bowl-A-Thon, and the Festival of Nations. We primarily collaborated in volunteer recruitment, which made it possible to have an exceptional group of dedicated student volunteers to participate in these events. I have served as the Colleges’ VISTA for the last two years through an AmeriCorps grant. Since this is the final year of the grant, I have been specifically focused on aligning program resources to promote the long-term sustainability of the Boys and Girls Club HWS volunteer efforts and Geneva Reads partnership. As the VISTA grant ends I am preparing to make my own transition into the next chapter of my life. As a result of my experiences at HWS as a student and AmeriCorps VISTA, I was accepted to Teach for America, an AmeriCorps affiliated program, whose mission is to close the achievement gap for America’s youth in the country. This summer I will travel to Houston, Texas to become an elementary school teacher for the next two years to contribute to an ambitious goal. I’m proud of my commitment to HWS and the Geneva community, and feel prepared for what’s next!
**SPRING 2012 Calendar**

**Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration**
January 19- January 21

**The Art of Networking**
February 8, 7 p.m.

**The Struggle to Protect Central American Migrants:**
A Conversation with Padre Solalinde
February 14, 4:30 p.m.

**After I Pick the Fruit:**
Conversation with Nancy Ghertner, Filmmaker
February 22, 5 p.m.

**The Help: Film Screening and Discussions**
February 26-March 13

**Searching for a Job in this Economy**
March 7, 7 p.m.

**International Women’s Day**

*Women and Film: Mara Ahmed, Filmmaker*  
“Pakistan One on One”  
March 8, 5 p.m.

**The Skype Connection with Shanelle France ‘12**
March 29, 5 p.m.

**Interviewing Skills Workshop**
April 4, 7 p.m.

**The Outbound Journey:**  
*A Conversation about Crossing Cultures*  
April 5, 5 p.m.

**Fireside Chat with Vincenzo Pietropaolo**  
April 19, 12 p.m.

**Taste of the Worlds**  
April 22, 4 p.m.

**Cross Cultural Conversation with Jenny Wu ‘12**  
April 25, 5 p.m.

**HWS Classes of 2012**  
Reception  
May 12, 6 p.m.

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**Intercultural Affairs Programming**

The Cross-Cultural Coffee Hour gives students a chance to talk informally about their experiences of crossing borders. Past presenters include Chuan “Jenny” Wu ‘12.

The Fireside Chat with Faculty gives students the opportunity to listen to faculty discuss their research in an informal setting. Past presenters include Fay Botham (Religious Studies).

International Experience Student Panel students share their experiences from abroad such as internships, alternative spring breaks and volunteerism. This year was a collaboration with Global Education. Presenters included: Tatianna Ecehvarria ’13, Daphney Etienne ’12, Cristian Cedacero ’12, Zoe Van Nostrand ’14, Youdlyn Moreau ’13, Amira Abdulkadir ’14, Elsie Essien ’12, and Irini Stamatiou ’13.

The Writing Table staff of the Center for Teaching and Learning Writing 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 Father Alejandro Solalinde, Filmmaker Nancy Ghertner, and Filmmaker Mara Ahmed.

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.

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**CLUB MEETINGS @ IC**

**Monday**
7pm Model UN
8pm NARAL

**Tuesday**
5pm International Student Association
7pm Sankofa
7:30pm InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
8pm Native American Student Association

**Wednesday**
5pm Asian Student Union
7pm Latin American Organization
9pm Pride Alliance

**Thursday**
5pm South Asian Cultural Club
7pm Caribbean Student Association
8pm French and Francophone Club

**PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE @ IC**

- The Advocate
- The Black Collegian
- Crisis
- Hyphen
- Islamic Horizons
- Native Peoples
- Yes!