

The International Gazette

The International Gazette is an annual newsletter which aims to capture some of our international community at HWS and the people whose goals are to provide a global perspective on campus.

Our Campus Community:

A Note From Marylyn Uhnak, Office of Admissions

What is the "IC"?



The Intercultural Affairs Center (IC) is a place that creates an environment where students find support, challenges, and grounding for their personal growth, academic success and the development of their leadership skills. Students are encouraged to become leaders, mentors and to excel academically. Our programs promote cross-cultural opportunities and also support students and other campus community members.

INTERCULTURAL AFFAIRS CENTER HOURS

Monday 8:30am-12am

Tuesday 8:30am-12am

Wednesday 8:30am-12am

Thursday 8:30am-12am

Friday 8:30am-10pm

Saturday 2pm-7pm

Sunday 2pm-12am

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Be sure to check out our blog:
hwsinterculturalaf-fairscenter.wordpress.com/



Marylyn in Kolkata, India (August 2019)

As the Associate Director of Admissions for On Campus Events I was offered the opportunity to travel to Asia on behalf of Hobart and William Smith to meet with and recruit students in

2012. This was definitely a leap from my role within the Admissions Office to something completely new and unfamiliar. Outside of Canada and Bermuda, I had never traveled internationally. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine going to parts of the world I only saw in movies or read about in books. My trip was transformative! It made me want more, to learn about the people, their cultures, and most importantly to help those students seeking an education in the US.

Eight years later, I am now the Director of International Admissions. I spend between 5 to 7 weeks a year outside of the US meeting with potential Hobart and William Smith students. I've traveled throughout Asia, and in parts of Europe and Africa.

I attend college fairs, meet with college counselors, talk with families, interview students, and conduct informational sessions at high schools. I've met thousands of students who hope to study at an American college or university and provided mentorship and guidance to many of them along the way.

The work doesn't stop when I return to Geneva – that's where I begin to enlist the efforts of our wonderful Admissions ambassadors. After returning to campus, I work on filling in the blanks for students and their families who still have questions. The US college search can be overwhelming for a student from outside the US, and our current international students serve as crucial mentors and guides for the college search. I am truly thankful to have the support of current international students throughout the admissions process. We celebrate when students enroll and look forward to their arrival on campus in the fall, knowing that their hard work and ours was all worth it.



Marylyn at Chengdu #7 Wanda High School (October 2019)

From a Graduating Senior By Hamdan Ahmed '20



What advice do you have for the incoming class?

Get involved in the HWS and the Geneva community as much as possible; tutor at Boys and Girls Club, join different student-run clubs and show up to on-campus events to meet new people. First-year can be tough, especially, for international students, therefore, always make sure you take time out for yourself and utilize the resources (e.g. Intercultural Affairs) offered by the HWS community.

What lessons have you learned since you first arrived at HWS?

I believe the most important thing I learned since I first arrived at HWS is to be fluid and always be open to new opportunities. HWS has a lot to offer and being fluid on campus like HWS allows you to learn new things and make new connections.

What are your plans after HWS?

I will be working as a Software Engineer at a global health care technology company.

Featured Club: Russian Area Studies Club



Русское Обучение в HWS (Russian Studies at HWS)

The Russian Area Studies Club celebrates and promotes an understanding of Russian and Slavic cultures, foods, and language. We work with the greater HWS community, to build a fun and inclusive community for all lovers of Russia.

Спасибо нашему клубу российских исследований (Thank you to our Russian Studies Club)

Russian Area Studies Club Board: Sara Cavanaugh '20, Alexandra Curtis '20, Jharna Kokal (Spanish FLTA), Olga Chueva (Russian FLTA), Mary Hanrahan '22, Kaitlyn Marshall '20, Autumn Bierce '22, Manon Carlo (French Fulbright).



Russian Table Spring 2020



Russian Table Maslenitsa Spring 2020

Reflections from our Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants!



Zayad Khalaf (Arabic FLTA) with one of his classes.

Zayad Khalaf

As a Fulbrighter, I definitely enjoyed my experience at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. The reason why I enjoyed it is because of the welcoming and smiling people you meet everywhere, whether on campus or out campus. I taught Arabic for beginners and intermediate level. Everyone at HWS was supportive and helpful, which makes me grateful to them all. They made me feel at home. My experience at the Colleges definitely expanded my knowledge of US culture and academic life. As both a teacher and a student, I was lucky to have brilliant students, in both groups, with whom I could discuss cultural aspects related to both languages; Arabic and English. Although Geneva is a beautiful city winter takes a long time of the year and it is not my favorite season but all in all I loved my experience this past year!

Manon Carlo

HWS was my first choice as Fulbrighter! I met so many amazing people during my year as an FLTA. Being both a teacher and a student was both challenging and extremely enriching. The students at HWS are simply incredible, so involved in their learning, their inquisitive minds always pushing me to teach to the very best of my abilities. I had so much fun with them, and I think they did too! Geneva itself is the kind of place that grows on you: the more you discover it and get familiar with it, the more you feel like it's your new home -- watching dance shows at the Opera Smith House, hanging out in Parker's, eating at Mark's Pizzeria, having a bonfire while gazing at the lake... All of these are wonderful memories, and I know that I will miss Geneva

when I go back to France. Sharing a house with colleagues from Spain, Russia, Italy and Iraq was also a great experience, and I learned so much about their cultures and made amazing friends with my FLTA flatmates. Thanks to financial support from HWS, I was also able to travel around and visit places such as Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, New Orleans, Miami... All in all, in spite of the extraordinary event and consequences of the COVID-19, this year will definitely be remembered as one of the best years in my life. I cannot thank HWS enough for everything!



Olga Chueva (Russian FLTA), Manon Carlo (French FLTA), Jharna Kokal (Spanish FLTA)

Jharna Kokal

I fell in love with the campus even before stepping my foot in Geneva. Pretty buildings, the huge quad and the sun, all of that surrounded by an amazing community. As FLTAs, we participated in interesting events such as trips to Niagara Falls and the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester. Everyone around us was highly supportive and passionate about their work, specially the IC who helped me in so many ways and always made sure I could use the available resources to organize my own events or use the space for my weekly Spanish round tables. I also improved my teaching and developed a very special bond with the students in my classes, which allowed me to understand even more HWS and its brilliant students. I really enjoyed seeing a hardworking community; loved how different clubs organized a

variety of events that were absolutely amazing: Koshare performances, Jazz ensemble, formal dinners, plays, the South Asia Student Association's cultural events, and so much more. I am grateful for having great classes and for their willingness to learn more about my culture. My only advice for future FLTAs is that enjoy every moment of your experience, never miss out anything, become part of this wonderful community by volunteering or joining clubs and always share your culture!



Olga Chueva (Russian FLTA) at the Russian club table during Taste of the World

Olga Chueva

My Fulbright year in HWS is my very first time in the US, and also it's the first time being so long so far from home. That's why for me it was an exceptional experience and I am very lucky to

have spend it here. Geneva is an absolutely lovely place with its gorgeous lake and pretty houses, but what matters most of all is people: the HWS community made me feel very welcome, especially the Russian Studies Department and IC. The Russian Department organized a number of fun events such as playing Lapta (a Russian version of baseball), reenacting the Revolution, and eating a delicious Russian dinner. Also, every week I hosted the Russian Table at IC for the most enthusiastic students I've ever met! We would watch cartoons, play games and mostly drink tea and chat about funny things that had happened to us during the week. Another memorable experience for me was taking part in the Posse Retreat. It was a truly inspiring weekend that allowed me to see the HWS community from a different perspective. I met amazing

students, faculty and staff who opened up to me as very understanding, motivated, and sincere people, who deeply care about the well-being of the community and its future.

Your FLTAs
Zayad Khalaf, Olga Chueva,
Manon Carlo, and Jharna Kokal



Jharna Kokal (Spanish FLTA) with students from the Spanish table.