



*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.*

## 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

### 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:  
[hwsinterculturalaffairscenter.wordpress.com/](http://hwsinterculturalaffairscenter.wordpress.com/)

## From a Graduating Senior

By Kelsi Carr '18



The IC was where my experience at HWS started. As an incoming sophomore transfer, I immediately went on to the campus website to see where I could work, and ultimately fit in. When looking at the amount of resources, and events that the IC held, I thought it would be a great fit for me. As I started working there and meeting the individuals that would come into the center, along with the faculty there, especially Professor Molina, I realized it was a great place. Professor Molina, has since been such a positive light in my life at HWS, she has guided me into many great opportunities, and is always there to support me when needed. Starting my time at HWS off at the

Intercultural Affairs Center made me friends that I have today, a great mentor, and many other wonderful memories that I still call some of my favorite at HWS.

#### What advice do you have for the incoming class?

Utilize the spaces on campus and be open to meeting anyone on campus. The professors quickly turn into mentors and allow opportunities for you to grow as a person and through out different roles for your time at HWS and beyond.

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

I have learned that being open to others is the best way at

- getting the full HWS experience. By allowing yourself to try different clubs, check out organizations events, and be really involved in the whole aspect of HWS, not just where you are comfortable, you are better able to grow and meet people who will change your entire experience!

#### What are your plans after HWS?

I actually just received a position to be a sales and merchandise rep for Labatt in downtown Toronto. I will be doing that for a year before moving onto graduate school.

## Featured Club: C.I.A.O.: Cultural Italian American Organization

The Cultural Italian-American Organization (CIAO) is an organization that is devoted to the promotion and appreciation if Italian Culture at HWS. CIAO hosts a variety of Italian themed events that celebrate the great things the Italian culture has to offer. Recent events included Italian movie nights, an Italian pastry cooking class, a Carnivale celebration, and a Bocce Ball Tournament. CIAO is open to all students (even if they do not come from Italian decent!). For more information, contact Bartolomeo Voto [BART.VOTO@hws.edu](mailto:BART.VOTO@hws.edu)



**CIAO @HWS**

Caroline Turino '20, Angus Pratt '20, Alessandra Bottacin (Italian Languages Fulbright Teaching Assistant) Bartolomeo Voto '21

## Reflections from Our Foreign Language Teaching Assistants!

As the first Italian FLTA at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, it was a great honor for me to pave the way for future Italian Fulbrighters. HWS has provided me an invaluable opportunity to grow personally and professionally. I enjoyed having the privilege of being both a teacher and a student. While at HWS, I realized how engaged the students are on this campus; I was able to take a course offered by the Education Department called "Children with Disabilities," joined the HWS Rotaract Club and an all-female a cappella group called Three Miles Lost. As an Italian teacher, working with my colleagues Meghann and Augar (French and Arabic FLTAs) and Anna (German Blocker teaching fellow) gave me the chance to share perspectives and work on effective and inclusive education strategies for our language classes. Living together also allowed us to discover more about our cultures and to become very good friends. The Intercultural Center in particular was of great help in organizing my Italian cooking events, my cultural events such as the Carnevale celebration, the Bocce tournament and the Italian movie screenings. As an Italian cultural ambassador, I also gave a presentation about Carnevale outside campus, at the Sons of Italy of Geneva, which is part of the largest and oldest national organization for men and women of Italian heritage in the United States. I was also very proud of holding the first Italian language table and founding the first Italian club C.I.A.O with my students! I am really looking forward to hearing about how the Italian program will develop in the future.

Alessandra Bottacin, Italian FLTA

I enjoyed every second of my time as a Fulbright Arabic Teaching Assistant at the Hobart and William Smith Colleges in the beautiful city of Geneva. Despite the never-ending New York winter, the love and support of the welcoming HWS community kept me warm and made me feel at home. I consider myself lucky to experience the American college life as both a student and a teacher simultaneously. The classes I attended as a student helped me grow academically and professionally. Besides gaining knowledge in a subject matter, I closely observed new effective pedagogies and applied them in my own Arabic classrooms. With equal enthusiasm, I fulfilled my other role as a language teacher to teach Arabic to two groups of bright students. In addition to language, I invested my teaching experience and extended cultural knowledge to expose my students to the rich culture of the Arab world through dancing, cooking, and traditional games. Similarly, I learned a good deal about American culture through my students during our weekly 'Arabic Table' meetings. I will always be grateful for this enriching and eye-opening opportunity.

**Augar Khoshaba, Arabic FLTA**



I entered my Fulbright year with no particular expectations, and oh how much was I pleasantly surprised! The food, the people, the landscapes, the cultures, the fact that the United States looks a lot like the movies and TV shows, it's incredible! I met the best roommates (and I was scared to have roommates!) Anna the Blocker Fellow, and Fulbright Scholars Alessandra and Augar with whom I share an incredible friendship and whom I will miss greatly when I go back to France. My discovery extends to meeting other professors and colleagues at HWS, now friends with whom I bonded over my love of TV series! Moreover, this year as a Fulbright has been filled with many trips across the country from East Coast to West Coast. I traveled much more than I thought or that I could have fathomed while I was in Paris. However, it is also the students that surprised me. I had a very great time while I was teaching, trying to make the class fun and joking with my students in order to change their approach of the language. Going to class to teach them was a pleasure and I will always remember them and their personalities!

**Meghann Fedon, French FLTA**

Meghann Fedon (Fulbright French FLTA), Alessandra Bottaccin (Fulbright Italian FLTA), Augar Khoshaba (Fulbright Arabic FLTA)



## Reflections from Our German Julius G. Blocker '53 Teaching Fellow!



I could not have wished for a more warm and friendly welcome, as the new Julius G. Blocker '53 teaching fellow in the German Area Studies. The Fulbright scholars from France, Italy and Iraq – Meghann, Alessandra, Augar, and I became good friends within the first weeks of meeting and sharing a house together. I also soon became friends with professors from the fields of Entrepreneurial Studies, Chemistry, Mathematics, Economics and many other departments, through Friday Social events and binge-watching guilty pleasure shows (whose names will never be revealed). My colleagues in the German Area Studies, Professor Eric Klaus and Professor Ashwin Manthripragada, were very helpful and supportive from the beginning, so that I could start my first semester prepared and without worries. Through the entire year this support has not weaken and I want to thank you for that! During my two semesters at HWS, I met many incredibly smart and inquisitive students. Whether through weekly Twitter challenges, excursions, open office hours or by Stammtisch meetings or film evenings by the German club, I was always greeted with a curiosity for Germany and the German language. I have experienced the students at HWS as respectful but also very entertaining. We often laughed together and shared a joke when grammar topics were giving everybody headaches. I also enjoyed my week leading students down to New Orleans for an Alternative Spring Break, where we worked with a volunteer organization and helped rebuilding houses destroyed by hurricanes and tornados. I surely know now how to prepare, cut and hang drywall. Thank you again to the NOLA'18 team! I will miss these friendships a lot, when I leave Geneva. However, I am sure that I will meet some of you soon or in the coming years in Germany or somewhere else. Because, as we say in German: Man sieht sich immer zweimal im Leben. (You always meet twice in a lifetime!) Anna Meinig German Blocker Fellow

## Our Campus Community: A Note from Sherri Martin-Baron, Writing and Rhetoric

When I was 27, I left my life in the U.S. behind and moved to Thailand to teach English for the first time. It was a transformative experience – I discovered that I loved teaching, and that I especially loved teaching English to non-native speakers. I've been teaching ever since. I love working with students and helping them gain confidence in English. I provide tools and strategies for success by facilitating classroom activities which encourage autonomous as well as group learning. I believe that a good teacher is also a coach and a guide.

Here at HWS I teach WRRH 105 and 106, which prepare non-native speakers for the challenges of attending college in a foreign language. I've been at HWS for three years. One of the things I love best about teaching here is collaborating with CTL on conversation partners, which is a program I started with Ingrid Keenan to provide students with opportunities for practicing conversation skills. In addition, each semester my courses include a Writing Colleague who has been selected because of their experience with diverse cultures. In the future, I look forward to further developing and expanding the ESL program to provide more opportunities for academic speaking and listening skills in addition to the current focus on reading and writing. I really enjoy being creative and experimenting with my course syllabus so that each year the experience that I'm providing gets better and better adapted to the needs of the students here at HWS.

