



**PROFESSIONAL
STRIDES**



2020-2023

CO-FACULTY LEADER,
GLOBAL CITIZEN SCHOLARS PROGRAM
INVESTING IN EMPOWERING WOMEN



Twenty select students from the incoming class of 2020 will be exploring the topic of **“Investing in Empowering Women”** with my colleague Prof. Caryl Waggett (Global Health Studies) and I, over a period of three years. Their investigation integrates academic coursework, experiential learning through domestic/international fieldwork, and research, to create a legacy project.



2019-PRESENT

CO-CHAIR,

**PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF
WOMEN EMPLOYEES & EMPLOYEES OF COLOR**



The Commission has been charged with making data-informed recommendations to strengthen the hiring, retention, and leadership/promotion practices for female employees and those from under-represented groups on campus.



2017-2018

PROVOST'S DIVERSITY LIAISON + FACULTY CHAIR FOR THE SUSTAINED DIALOGUES & CIVILITY INITIATIVE ON CAMPUS

In this capacity, I organized multiple Sustained Dialogue training workshops for employees (faculty, staff, administrators) led by the [Sustained Dialogue Institute](#) on how to participate in Sustained Dialogues (SD) on difficult topics. While also serving as Chair of the SD Steering Committee, we successfully initiated a semester-long set of campus-wide mixed Sustained Dialogue Circles made up of students and employees. Participants in these SD Circles dialogued about how to build a positive campus culture that can support our excellence through diversity.





INSTITUTIONAL MENTOR

- ❖ As a mentor for full-time tenure and non-tenure track educators at the college since 2013, I have the pleasure of regularly meeting with the colleagues in various mentoring groups to brainstorm about teaching, research, collaboration, and professional development.
- ❖ Current faculty advisor for the following students' organizations: the Allegheny College chapter of the Rotaract Club, the South Asian Students' Club, and the Orchesis Dance Company. In this capacity, I help students develop their leadership, programming, collaboration, and team-building skills.





SUMMER 2019

MOST RECENT

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING SEMINAR

TO INDIA

EXL 594: "Re-staging History as
Media Event" (4 credits)

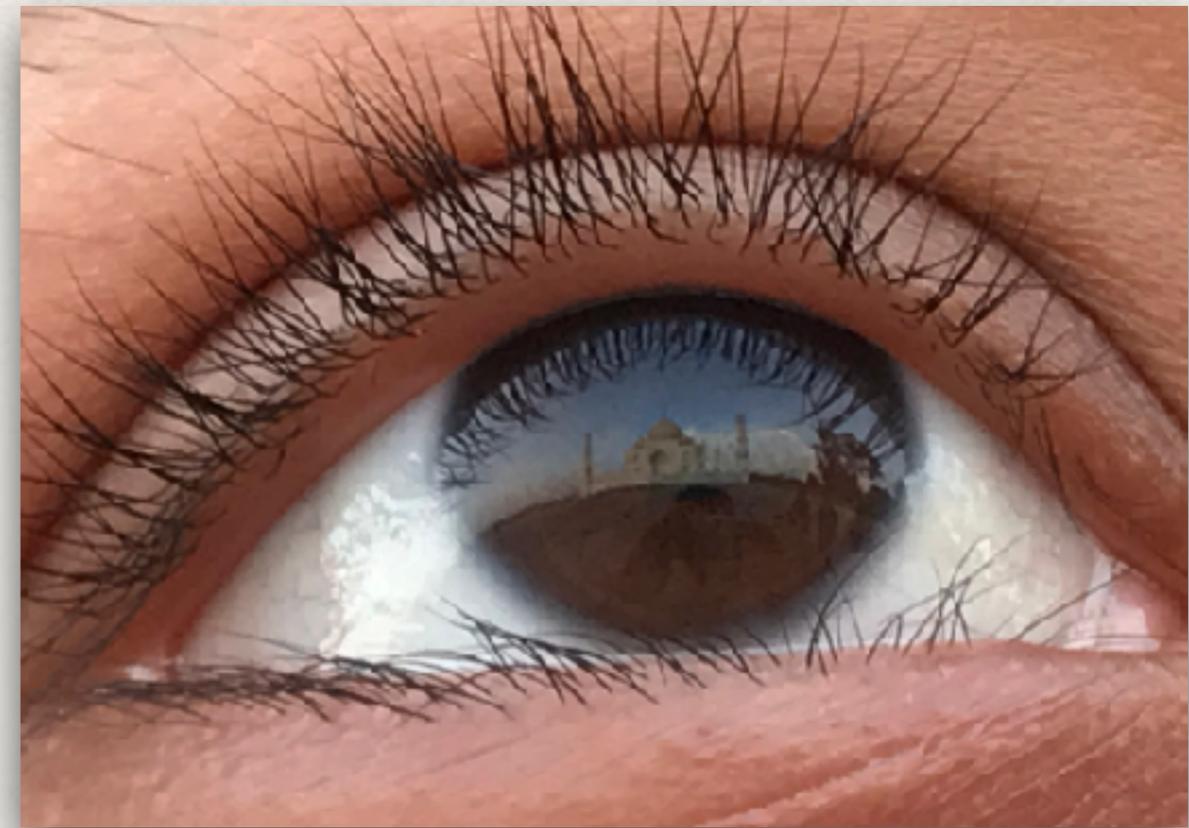


Photo Credit (above): Marisol Santa Cruz



My colleague Beth Watkins (Theater) and I took a group of sixteen Allegheny College participants on a 21-day experiential study tour of northwest India to explore how history is being revised to serve a new Hindutva nationalist agenda. Read more about the 2019 India EL Seminar in [this piece](#) that appeared in *Athena Abroad*.



EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL

- ❖ **Marisol Santa Cruz** ('20) is a Communication Arts major and Computer Science Minor, and a first-generation college student who came to Allegheny College all the way from California. Marisol was my summer research student in 2018. I advised Marisol as she applied for a prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. The funding enabled her to participate in the 2019 India EL Seminar that I co-led with my colleague Prof. Beth Watkins.
- ❖ **Bryan Quiroz** ('21) is on the cusp of declaring an Economics Major and Communication Arts Minor. He is a first-generation college student and attended the same high school in California as did Marisol. Bryan worked with me to prepare his application for a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. He made the cut and was therefore able to afford the costs of the 2019 India EL Seminar that I co-led with my colleague Prof. Beth Watkins.





2015-2017

CO-PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR, ANDREW W. MELLON GRANT FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION

- Co-facilitated two Teaching Circles for full-time educators. Participants met weekly, over lunch, and shared ideas on how to integrate global components and perspectives into the curriculum in meaningful ways within the disciplines and in interdisciplinary ways.
- Received summer funding through the grant to internationalize the courses that I teach.
- Along with the Mellon Internationalization Grant Steering Committee, worked with senior administrators to approve faculty-staff travel seminars with the goal of broadening intercultural awareness on the campus through the participant-ambassadors from various campus constituencies.





Alicia Rivera
Spanish and Black Studies

“International experience allows students to gain unique perspectives, experiences and ideas that they will bring to their future careers.”



2013-2015

FACULTY STUDY-ABROAD COORDINATOR FOR THE COLLEGE

- ❖ Collaborated with the Study Away and Campus Internationalization Committee to develop Allegany College’s Comprehensive Internationalization and Study Abroad Plans.
- ❖ Partnered with the Office for International Education in reviewing and revising the Faculty handbook guidelines for faculty-led Experiential Learning Seminars abroad for academic credit.



Allegany College

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Spanish Language and Literature
2009 – 2013

Experience



Client Service Associate

Morgan Stanley

Feb 2017 – Present - 2 yrs 7 mos
Greater New York City Area



ESL Teacher

Juan Pablo II

Sep 2015 – Jul 2016 - 11 mos



Math Teacher

NYC Department of Education

Aug 2013 – Aug 2015 - 2 yrs 1 mo

My responsibilities included lesson planning, unit planning and creating activities for bilingual and SIFE students.

Alicia Rivera

Spanish and Black Studies

When Alicia Rivera '13 looks back at her academic career at Allegheny, one of the experiences she will value most is her time spent studying overseas. She lived in the town of Triana, Spain, not far from Seville, during the first semester of her junior year.

"It forced me out of my comfort zone and taught me how to adapt to a new setting," says Alicia, a Spanish major. "Study Away gave me the opportunity to immerse myself in a new country, which was an amazing experience, especially in a society heading toward globalization."

The semester in Spain and an experiential learning trip to India will benefit her personally and professionally as she moves into her career, says Alicia. "Adaptation is a key element while abroad or in any new environment. I learned to adapt to my surroundings and have a positive attitude," she says.

"I am more globally aware and culturally sensitive because I learned to observe and experience a new place rather than judge and compare the differences. I learned that a place isn't better or worse than where I come from. It's simply different from what I think is normal. I learned to embrace the Spanish culture rather than criticize it."

Adaptation, creative-thinking and tolerance — these are among the goals of an Allegheny education. The College's administration sees Study Away as an integral part of that process.

As for Alicia, she says she is a more complete and confident person. "An international experience allows students to gain unique perspectives, experiences and ideas that they will bring back, not only to Allegheny but their future careers."





FACULTY-STUDENT COLLABORATION AS STARTING POINT FOR CITIZENSHIP

- ❖ I have had the honor of working with several students across various disciplines on both research and experiential learning projects during summers.
- ❖ Whether it is coursework or research outside the classroom, I try and make students see how education in then here and now is preparation for getting involved in building better communities and tomorrows.
- ❖ This is also why teaching assessments as a pen and paper exercise matter less to me than the feedback I receive from alumni three or four years after they have graduated. For that is when they start to truly realize the value of an Allegheny College education, and how it makes them students of life, for the rest of their lives.

From Academia to AmeriCorps

By Gabrielle Bradshaw, AmeriCorps VISTA Project Director

What are you doing after graduation? This has become the age-old, sometimes anxiety-producing, question for many graduating seniors as they finish up their final semesters of college. But for five Allegheny College students, the answer was easy — post-graduate service through Lake Effect Leaders AmeriCorps VISTA project.

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) builds capacity in nonprofit organizations and communities in order to help bring individuals out

of poverty. For over 50 years, AmeriCorps VISTA members have served as a catalyst for change, living and working alongside community members to meet our nation's most pressing challenges and advance local solutions.

But what led these ambitious students to sign up to serve the Meadville community? As you will see below, for most, it was their experience in academia that led them to pursue a year of anti-poverty work.

Questions asked to all five members:

1 What was your major/minor at Allegheny?

2 Did your studies at Allegheny influence you in any way to complete a year of service with AmeriCorps? If so, how?

3 What are you hoping to gain by the end of your service year, and how will that influence your career goals?



Arianna O'Connell '18
Volunteer Coordinator and Resident Empowerment VISTA serving at Crawford County Coalition on Housing Needs and Crawford County Mental Health Awareness Program (CCCHN & CHAPS)

Major: Communication Arts
Minor: Psychology

"During my time in the communication arts program, I took a number of classes on issues like

globalization, inequality, and neo-liberalism — all of which deepened my need to give back to my community and my interest in helping others by building capacity. Doing research with Professor Ishita Sinha Roy in 2016 about rural politics and the presidential election allowed me to learn more about this region of the United States and was my inspiration for getting to know the Meadville community better.

Additionally, the research I conducted for an independent study and my senior thesis was framed around Crawford County's political, economic, and social history. It is such a blessing to now be working with two nonprofits (CHAPS and the Crawford County Coalition on Housing Needs) whose goals are to assure that every person in Crawford County has housing and the necessary resources to live a fulfilling life.



CONNECTING ALLEGHENY COLLEGE GATORS WITH STUDENTS ABROAD



Above: Reading to students in a rural classroom in Kenya



Above Left: Allegheny students on an EL Seminar to Japan interview Keio University students in Tokyo (Summer 2018)

Below Left: Students on an EL Seminar to India in 2019 spent a day with high school seniors from International Baccalaureate programs at top-notch private schools in New Delhi, India.