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CISGO Newsletter November 2022

Kate Regan Faculty Development Grant



CISGO's Executive Committee is pleased to announce the 2022 Kate Regan Faculty Development Fund will be awarded to two professors in the Environmental Studies Department.

Dr. Neil Oculi was invited to participate in COP 27 in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt, as a representative of the Association of Small Island States. The award of \$5500 will cover his expenses for this important work. Dr. Oculi's project is entitled *Addressing Issues of Environmental Ethics and Policy Through Diplomatic Participation with the Alliance of Small Island States at the Climate Change Negotiations in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt*.

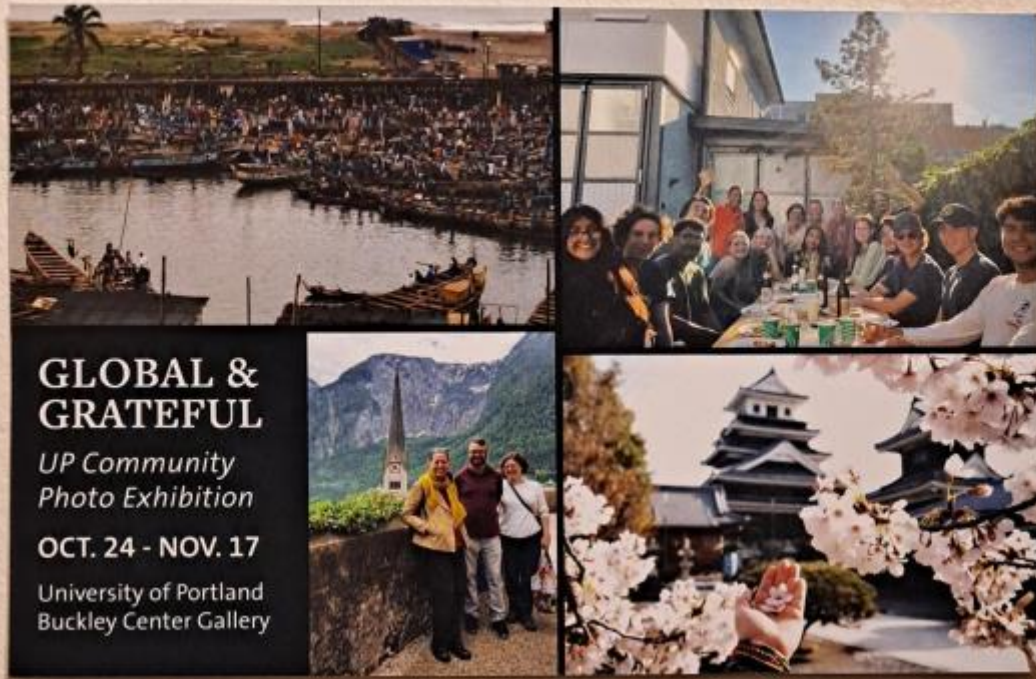
- Dr. Oculi wrote, *"I am currently teaching a new course in Climate Change Negotiations...My presence and participation at the COP will strengthen my teaching and mentoring capacities..."*

Dr. Kali Abel is awarded \$4500 to cover her expenses for research in the summer of 2023 in Colombia where she will examine the responses of local communities to the twin threats of climate change and violent conflict as they work together to protect their land. Dr. Abel's project is entitled *Nos Matan: Environmental Governance, Climate Change, and Conflict in Antioquia, Colombia*.

- Dr. Abel wrote, *"My courses are current-context driven and lean heavily on my research and the stories of the communities and individuals I am working with. This allows my courses to mirror my work in the field by being interdisciplinary, problem-solving oriented, and informed by current context and lived-experience..."*

Both Dr. Oculi and Dr. Abel will bring their projects into their classrooms as well as present their work to the broader UP community. Both faculty members are also early in their careers and exemplify the enthusiastic junior faculty that Kate Regan was always championing.

Inaugural Global & Grateful Buckley Gallery Exhibition Oct 24-Nov 17



GLOBAL & GRATEFUL

UP Community Photo Exhibition

OCT. 24 - NOV. 17

University of Portland
Buckley Center Gallery

Global & Grateful

UP Community Photo Exhibition

October 24 - November 17, 2022

At the Inaugural Office for International Education, Diversity, and Inclusion (OIEDI) Buckley Gallery Photo Exhibition students, administrators, faculty, and staff have been invited to share photos from a meaningful experience away from their country of birth. Take note of the many global experiences, expressions, and lessons learned by our community that continue to enrich the UP campus culture!

The themes for the featured photos fall under three categories - Academic, Community Building, and Gratitude.

University of Portland
5000 N. Willamette Blvd.
Portland, OR 97203-5798

Gallery Hours:
Mon - Fri 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat & Sun 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Check out the photos and stories shared by UP students, staff, and faculty at the inaugural OIEDI Global & Grateful Buckley Gallery Exhibition from October 24 - Nov. 17th! Over 0 images were submitted by the UP community that showcase how and why the community has gone about actively and mindfully engaging cross-culturally (domestically and abroad) in an effort to broaden understanding and increase gratitude.





The Sojourner Scholar's Program



A Note from Alumni Krisztian Jeszenski:

For anyone that thinks they are interested in an international career and in understanding how to engage as a global citizen, the Sojourner Scholars certification program should be on your radar. To my surprise, the required course for the program involved more reflection and discussion than I initially anticipated. My peers and I looked back on all the intercultural experiences we had in our lives and discussed with each other what we had learned about ourselves and the world.

At its core, we were analyzing how our own identities are influenced by our backgrounds, experiences, and how these identities are viewed by other cultures. Over the course of my life, I have visited family in other countries, studied abroad and learned foreign languages so I was always curious about how someone of one cultural background can acclimate to another and, more importantly, how they make themselves understood.

Currently, I'm teaching English in Hungary, my parents' country of origin, so I am familiar with the culture. Regardless, having grown up in the US, there are instances where my American background clashes with the realities in Hungary. For instance, I am used to the formality and privacy that exists in the US work culture. However, Hungarians are much more direct in their communication styles and can ask quite personal questions that would surprise a US employee.

These kinds of interactions are what the Sojourner Scholars program allows you to explore as you craft a portfolio of your experiences. I chose the program because I was interested in questioning these experiences and because I am pursuing an international career. Learning about foreign cultures and our relation to them is highly valuable knowledge that can be transformed into intercultural competency skills at our jobs and well throughout our lives. The best part about exposing ourselves to other cultures is that we are learning.

Faculty and Students Abroad: Malawi



Malawi, known as the Warm Heart of Africa, is a small landlocked country in East Africa, celebrated for its diverse wildlife, beautiful lake Malawi, and a friendly and generous people. In 2019, UP Shiley School of Engineering (SSoE) faculty and students traveled with TeamLift, a U.S. based nonprofit, to design a solar-powered irrigation system to improve the nutrition of students, faculty, and staff at St. Mary's Secondary School in Karonga. A planned return in 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID pandemic and recently came to fruition in May of 2022.

UP's Shiley School of Engineering (SSoE) and School of Nursing and Health Innovation (SONHI) traveled with TeamLift to Karonga in the spring of 2022 to support elevating the status of girls and women in the region, while helping to eradicate chronic poverty. St Mary's, established in 2016, has now graduated its third cohort of students, and is ranked the #1 girls' school in the country. This academically rigorous program houses 600 girls who are academically gifted but resource poor. Weather worn signs outside the school campus read "Educate me, don't marry me" and "Give us books, not husbands."

Education, nutrition, and access to healthcare are well established social determinants of health that can transform the long-term well-being of populations. St. Mary's Secondary School is committed to educating girls for college readiness, understanding that investing in girls and young women not only transforms individuals, but also families, communities, and nations. Girls who are educated are more able to be financially independent, have children by choice, and contribute back to their families and communities. Many of the St. Mary's girls now in college are pursuing careers in healthcare, engineering, social work, and business. A four-year college degree in Malawi, which costs a total of \$6,000, can forever alter the trajectory of their lives.

St. Mary's campus includes a seven-acre farm that raises primarily maize for the girls to consume throughout the academic year. Natural weather patterns allow for one harvest annually. A solar-powered irrigation system that UP faculty and students helped install allows for up to three harvests per year, improving the capacity of the school to provide improved nutrition to the girls. As of May 2022, the solar-powered irrigation system is functioning, and the second crop of the season is underway!

Interdisciplinary collaboration between the SSoE and SONHI allows undergraduate faculty and students to examine the concept of health broadly and to understand how our disciplines intersect to promote well-being in low-income, low-resource areas. This project is aligned with UP's mission to educate the whole person and respond to the needs of the world and its human family.

Our plans are to return to Malawi annually, and recruitment of students is currently underway for our next scheduled trip in May 2023.



1 - Working on the project: UP students and their Malawian counterparts



2 - Students at the school

CISGO¹ Executive Board and News

- Anne Santiago, Ph.D. (Co-chair), Political Science, Associate Professor
- Maraina Montgomery (Co-chair), MA Ed., Study Abroad Director
- Eduardo Contreras Jr., Ed.D., Associate Provost for International Education, Diversity & Inclusion
- Lisa Reed, J.D., Pamplin School of Business, Associate Dean, Associate Professor
- Sally Hood, Ph.D., School of Education, Associate Professor (On Sabbatical fall 2022)
- Laurie Laird, Moreau Center for Service and Justice, Director (Departing Nov. 4)
- Michael Pelley, International Student Services, Director
- Andrew Nuxol, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Shiley School of Engineering
- *NEW* Alexandra Stewart, Ph.D., Associate for the College of Arts and Sciences, German Language, Professor

¹<https://www.up.edu/cisgo/>

- *NEW* Isabelle Soulé, Ph.D., RN, School of Nursing, Associate Professor
- *NEW* Rebecca Smith, School of Education, Associate Professor (temporary replacement for Sally Hood)

During this Academic Year, we have already participated in a half-day workshop to set our goals for the year and granted two faculty members a Kate Regan Faculty Development Award (see above). We continue our work to:

- Identify one and five year goals and priorities;
- Update CISGO's mission, vision, and processes
- More actively inform the UP community about CISGO and encourage partnerships

Please contact Anne (santiago@up.edu²) or Maraina (montgomm@up.edu³) with questions or for more information.

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