

Spring 2023 | Issue 2

# IGP ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Interdisciplinary Global Programs | Center For International Education | Northern Arizona University



## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

[Director's message p.1-2](#)  
[Graduate plans p.3](#)  
[Alumni spotlight p.4](#)  
[IGP Alumni Connect p.5](#)  
[Spring 2023 highlights p.6](#)  
[Alumni survey p.6](#)



**Photo caption:** Andrea Lopez (Cohort 2021, Biology & Spanish) giving the keynote speech at Spring 2023 International Graduation

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

What a joy it is to be connected with you and witness you going far and high in your personal and professional paths. We are so proud of you. Your collective impact brings us great hope for a better future. Without doubt, your career paths are driving positive change, and this is still just the beginning. You all possess the ability to keep an open heart and mind to people who have a different world view than you. This alone is transformative!

IGP has 203 alumni. Of the 90% of IGP alumni we are in touch with, we see that you are:

**100% employed  
or continuing  
education**

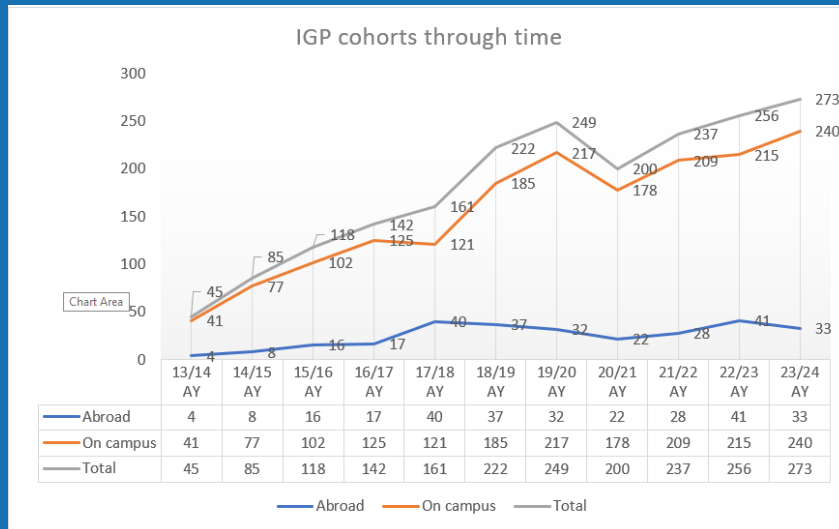
- In Arizona - 45%
- In the US (not AZ) - 35%
- International - 7%

In May, we celebrated the graduation of our 10th cohort of 41 students; IGP's largest cohort yet! Students went to eight countries and immersed in one of five non-English languages and cultures. We remain impressed by IGP students' ability to immerse themselves in the local community and have meaningful intercultural exchanges, both personally and professionally. As you know, a year abroad of coursework and fieldwork is not easy. We continue to admire students' ability to persist through the challenges they face while abroad. *(continued on the next page)*

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

IGP is sending its 11th cohort of 33 students abroad for the 2023/24 academic year. This is our first group since 2019 that is one true cohort, without any IGP students of other cohorts experiencing COVID modifications. Yet, the students of this cohort were in their first year at NAU in 2020 and they stuck with IGP too. We consider our past four cohorts to be heroes for surviving the pandemic with IGP. What an incredible time that was and how amazing it is to be back to one true cohort.

[IGP's application is open](#) for our summer recruitment season. Please help us promote IGP to your friends and family. IGP has served two siblings, and six cousins. As you can tell from the graph below, we expect IGP's student population to surpass pre-pandemic numbers this year. We look forward to growing to serve as many students as possible, to join in the impressive IGP alumni community.



The IGP staff team, now and over the years, continues to send you good wishes. We know your undergraduate experiences provided you with great skills for global leadership. You can communicate with others across disciplines, national borders, languages, and cultures. You can navigate ambiguity and complexity and keep your course on track. You have an international community and are part of a worldwide network. Keep going far and high in your careers and please keep in touch. Here is how:

- [Join our LinkedIn group](#)
- [Follow our Instagram](#)
- [Complete our Biannual alumni survey](#)
- [Submit a career update on our website](#)

A special thanks to our alumni creating opportunities and doing informational interviews with our upcoming students ([see page 5](#)). As always, remember we are here to support you throughout your career and life.

With respect,

Melissa Armstrong, IGP Director

# WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR GRADUATES?

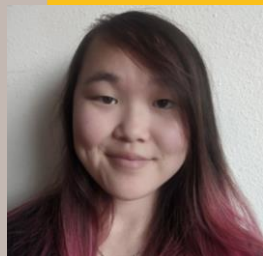
Congratulations to our recent IGP graduates! We are so proud of your accomplishments during your time in IGP. Learn what some of our recent graduates have planned for post-graduation.



## ALLYSSA HAZELIP, COHORT 2021, BIOLOGY & SPANISH

*"I will join a program at the University of Notre Dame's Environmental Research Center in Michigan's Upper Peninsula where I will be doing research on mosquito diversity and vector-borne ecology. The site contains 8,000 acres of wetlands and forests with astounding species diversity so I'm really excited to get hands-on field experience."*

## SOPHIE WOOD, COHORT 2020, ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABLE STUDIES & FRENCH



*"I was accepted into the Peace Corps for a 2-year appointment in Kenya. I will be a secondary education science teacher, where I will be creating a curriculum with a local Kenyan co-teacher and teaching general science to students between the ages of 11-20. For the first 3 months of my time in Kenya, I will be living with a host family and taking intensive Kiswahili language courses. After those 3 months, I will be assigned to a community. In that community, I hope to make a difference and see some of the most effective ways I can help people at a local scale!"*



## MANDY CURL, COHORT 2021, ACCOUNTING & FRENCH

*"I am going to be working at Baker Tilly, US as a Tax Associate in San Diego, California. My start date is in July."*



## MCKENNA HUEY, COHORT 2021, MARKETING & FRENCH

*"I am working on my pilot license and traveling abroad this summer. Surprisingly, while I was traveling in northern Scotland on the Isle of Skye and staying at a farmstead, a cyclist came up to me and asked for directions but happened to know only a little English and primarily spoke French!"*

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JESSICA ARCHIBALD



Jessica Archibald, Cohort 2018, Environmental Studies and Spanish

IGP staff sat down with Jessica Archibald to discuss her post-graduation journey from NAU and IGP. Jessica is a member of the 2018 IGP cohort. She graduated from NAU in 2019 with a B.S. in Environmental Studies, a B.A. in Modern Languages in Spanish and a minor in International Studies.

## What motivated you to join IGP as an NAU student?

I knew that I wanted to study abroad and I already spoke a little bit of Spanish which I was interested in continuing. I came across IGP and I thought, wow this is a great opportunity! I liked that it was a long-term, more immersive program and you were going out on your own, building independence. The additional degree and the cool connections to research and internships opportunities were great bonuses to the program.

## What was your biggest takeaway from your year abroad?

I went abroad to University of Concepcion in Chile and my internship was at the Ushuaia Tierra del Fuego research site in Argentina. My research with the site focused on trends of biological invasions using a framework we developed called the 'social imaginary.' The research was published after my time abroad. That was a huge takeaway for me to have my first authored paper, which is not super common to do as an undergrad, and really helped me get into graduate school.

In addition, I still use the Spanish skills I developed abroad. For my current research I do interviews in Spanish, read policies in Spanish and will spend time in the region. I also work as a part-time facilitator at an Arizona based company where I conduct sessions in Spanish.

A final takeaway is I found that my year abroad brought me out of my shell to meet new people and try new things. I still like to travel, and I am excited to get back into traveling soon.

## How did you determine your PhD and career path after graduation?

After I graduated from undergrad, I knew I wanted to go to graduate school and the Masters Program in Environmental Science and Policy at NAU fit my focuses of environmental science and social sciences.

I started the program in Fall 2020 and then applied for the Graduate Research Fellowship hosted by the National Science Foundation. This fellowship pays for 3 years of research and PhD tuition costs. When I was selected as a fellow I decided to transition to a PhD track. I am now in my third year of my PhD. I focus on mangrove governance in the Mesoamerican Reef eco-region (Yucatan peninsula down to the Honduras coastline).

I am also a facilitator for Southwest Decisions Resources, which is an AZ-based company focused on collaborative practices for natural resource management and conservation. I found this opportunity through a program course focused on collaboration and natural resource management. This course resonated with me and led me to take a facilitation training course with Southwest Decisions Resources. I was recommended for the position by a former boss at the Ecological Restoration Institute and I am now involved in several projects with the company.

## How have you used your IGP experience in your career path?

The experience has been super influential in my life and career path. I would not have close to the Spanish skills or community engagement skills I have now if I hadn't participated in IGP.

I think I have certainly been more competitive for scholarships, for graduate school and for jobs because of the skills that I developed through IGP, whether that be the Spanish or the research that I was able to do abroad.

*"I would not have close to the Spanish skills or community engagement skills I have now if I hadn't participated in IGP...it was a very foundational experience."*

## What advice would you give to our current IGP students about to go abroad?

Really keep an open mind and do not have any firm expectations, be open to new experiences. Most people's experiences are different than what they expected. Be open to all experiences.

## What advice would you give to recent IGP graduates?

IGP is a super unique experience and I have seen that people are very impressed and surprised by the program. Really market your participation--it speaks to what you are capable of. You did a lot of amazing things and should advocate for yourself.

# IGP ALUMNI CONNECT

The wealth of knowledge and experience that IGP alumni hold is invaluable to our current IGP students at NAU. Read more about some connections made this academic year below. If you are interested in connecting with current IGP students, see the following page for contact information and survey link.

## SERGIO BARBA, COHORT 2018 & CARLISSA MAREZ, COHORT 2021



Recent IGP graduate, Carlissa Marez, connected with alumnus, Sergio Barba, for an informational interview phone call this spring semester:

*"The call was enlightening. She shared details of her innovative work in her internship as well as her current pursuits. I shared my experience as an environmental laboratory chemist and as a municipal wastewater operator. I could speak of the open job market for positions such as my own."*

**- Sergio Barba, Cohort 2018, Chemistry and Spanish**



*"A piece of advice Sergio gave me is that there is no right path to take after college, everyone goes on different paths, sometimes it is not what you expected it to be, but it will all work out."*

**- Carlissa Marez, Cohort 2021, Chemistry and Spanish**

## ALICIA FASZHOLZ, COHORT 2017 & LUCY HOFFMAN, COHORT 2021

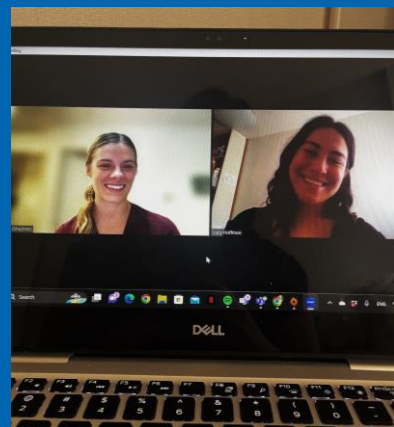
IGP student Lucy Hoffman connected via Zoom for an informational interview with alumnus, Alicia Faszholz, while Lucy completes her final year abroad:

*"I thoroughly enjoyed connecting with Lucy and love to hear that she was able to enjoy her year abroad despite the COVID setbacks. We discussed much of our respective paths in regards to education and future professional career desires. As she is also interested in the medical field, we discussed application specifics, MCAT, school selection, etc. but more importantly we discussed what life is like as a medical student."*

**- Alicia Faszholz, Cohort 2017, Chemistry and Spanish**

*"She opened my eyes to a bunch of different ways to make the most of my fieldwork and other unique experiences that I had with IGP to create a stronger medical school application! I now have many new leads for what to do before I start medical school once I return back to the States."*

**- Lucy Hoffman, Cohort 2021, Biomedical Sciences and Japanese**



**Photo caption:** Alicia (left) and Lucy (right) connecting on Zoom.

## JULIA HERNANDEZ, COHORT 2017 & EMILY ROLL, COHORT 2022



Recently returned IGP student, Emily Roll, connected with alumnus, Julia Hernandez, to explore opportunities to supplement her fieldwork experience abroad. Emily joined Julia's lab, Wetland Ecosystem Ecology Lab (WEEL), at Arizona State University:

*"Emily has been volunteering for the Salt River Biodiversity Project and the Tres Rios Project. It's been great having Emily out in the field and hopefully it will be a good supplement to her time abroad!"*

**- Julia Hernandez, Cohort 2017, Environmental Science and Spanish**



*"I have been working in the field with Julia on data collection mostly. We did a bird survey recently, we will do a reptile survey the coming week in June, and work on the Tres Rios wastewater treatment facility in July."*

**- Emily Roll, Cohort 2022, Environmental Science and Spanish**

# IGP SPRING 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Kyushu University visitors with IGP staff



L3 Students at Predeparture Orientation



Graduating IGP students at International Graduation



Recent Graduate, Cassidy, with IGP Staff



Level 3 Chinese language awardees, Linzi and Colleen



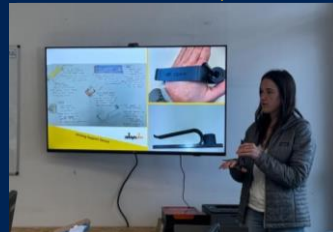
L3 students posing for photobooth at farewell picnic



Students Grace and Bailey at internship in Hong Kong



L4 student, Jackson, at internship in Chile



L4 student, Regan, presenting at internship in Spain



Students Laura and Brianna with Yamaguchi University staff



L4 Student, April at internship in France

## IGP ALUMNI SURVEY

Fill out the survey to provide updated contact information, life updates, recent employment or schooling, and alumni involvement interest.

**Note:** If you filled the survey out in Fall 2022 and have had no changes, you do not need to fill it out again.



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