

# Western Worldwide

*Your Gateway to Global Engagement*

Volume 3, Issue 2

## NEWSLETTER OF THE GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY - SPRING/SUMMER 2018

### Research Briefs in Global Studies



From L-R: Dr. Gregory Veeck, Dr. Susan Pozo, Dr. Alisa Perkins, Dr. Chien-Juh Gu, Dr. James Palmitessa, Dr. Ann Miles

The hallmark of a good research institution lies in its ability to facilitate the flow of ideas amongst its faculty members and students. In keeping with this tradition, the Global and International Studies (GIST) program hosted its first faculty research discussion symposium, *Research Briefs in Global Studies*. Researchers (and members of the GIST allied faculty) from different disciplines paired up to briefly describe and compare their individual research projects. One objective was to draw out the distinct ways different disciplines explore similar problems. The presenters of this semester's *Research Briefs*, featured in the photo above, presented three different topics:

**Diversity in Cities: Past and Present** featured James Palmitessa (History) as he discussed his research on 16th and 17th century Prague, while Alisa Perkins (Comparative Religion) discussed Muslim American civic engagement in Hamtrac, Michigan today.

**Telling Migration Stories** featured anthropologist Ann Miles (Sociology) and Susan Pozo (Economics) as they recounted their distinct disciplinary methodologies for studying migrants.

**Interviews in Fieldwork** featured Gregory Veeck's (Geography) interviews with herders in Mongolia and Chien-Juh Gu's (Sociology) interviews with Taiwanese immigrants in Chicago.

As an interdisciplinary and globally focused program, GIST, will be continuing with a new set of *Research Briefs* in the fall along with a companion symposium titled *Sabbaticals Abroad*. Faculty members returning from abroad will provide insights on how these opportunities have enriched their teaching and research. For more information regarding participation, feel free to contact us.

### From the Director

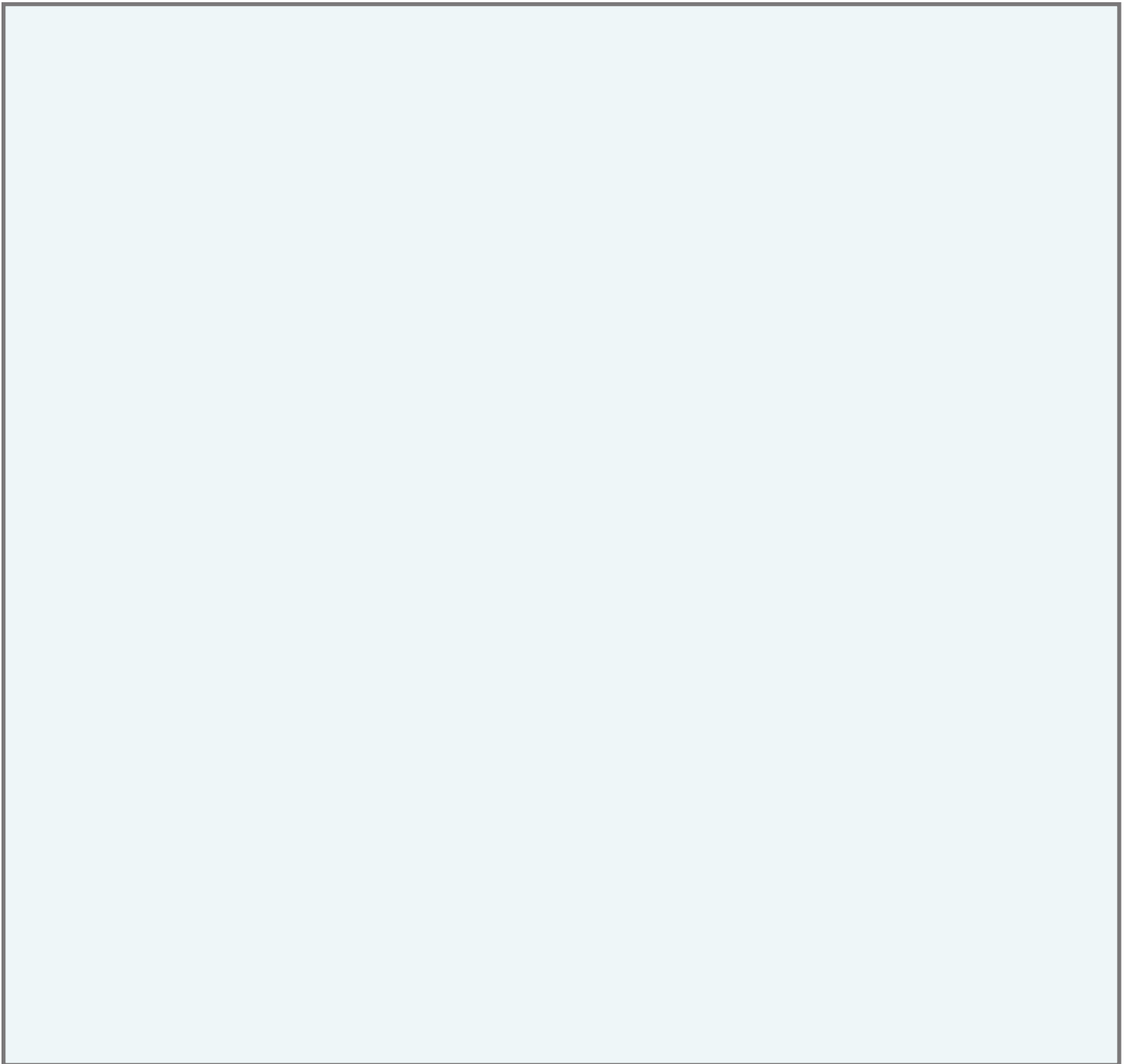
My first year as the director of the global and international studies program has almost ended and it has been a true honor to get to work with all of you. Thank you for your support and encouragement in honoring our students, getting Special Topics in Global Studies (GIST 1100) on the books, initiating Research Briefs in Global Studies, expanding study abroad offerings, and inducting new students into the International Studies Honor Society, Sigma Iota Rho.

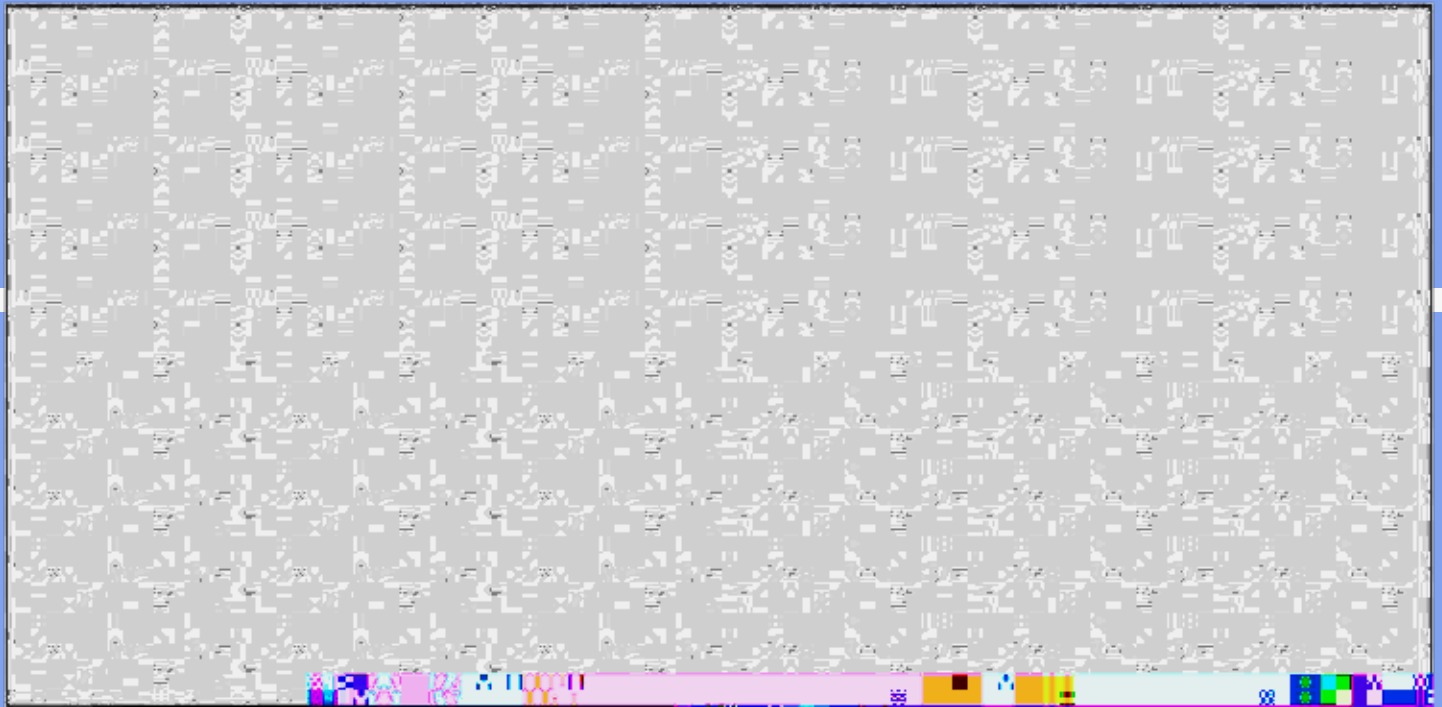
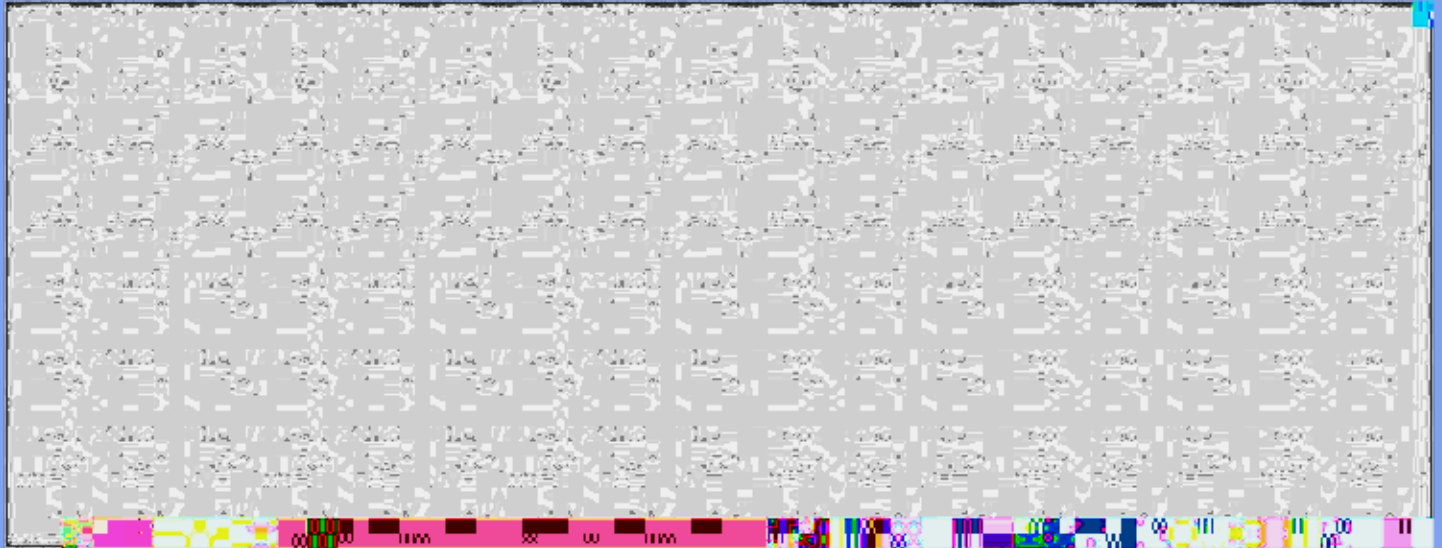
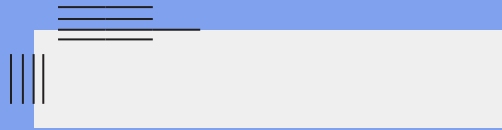
I hope that each and every one of you will experience a productive, enriching and restful summer. I look forward to the new academic year and hearing about your ideas for moving the GIST program forward! Please keep in touch.

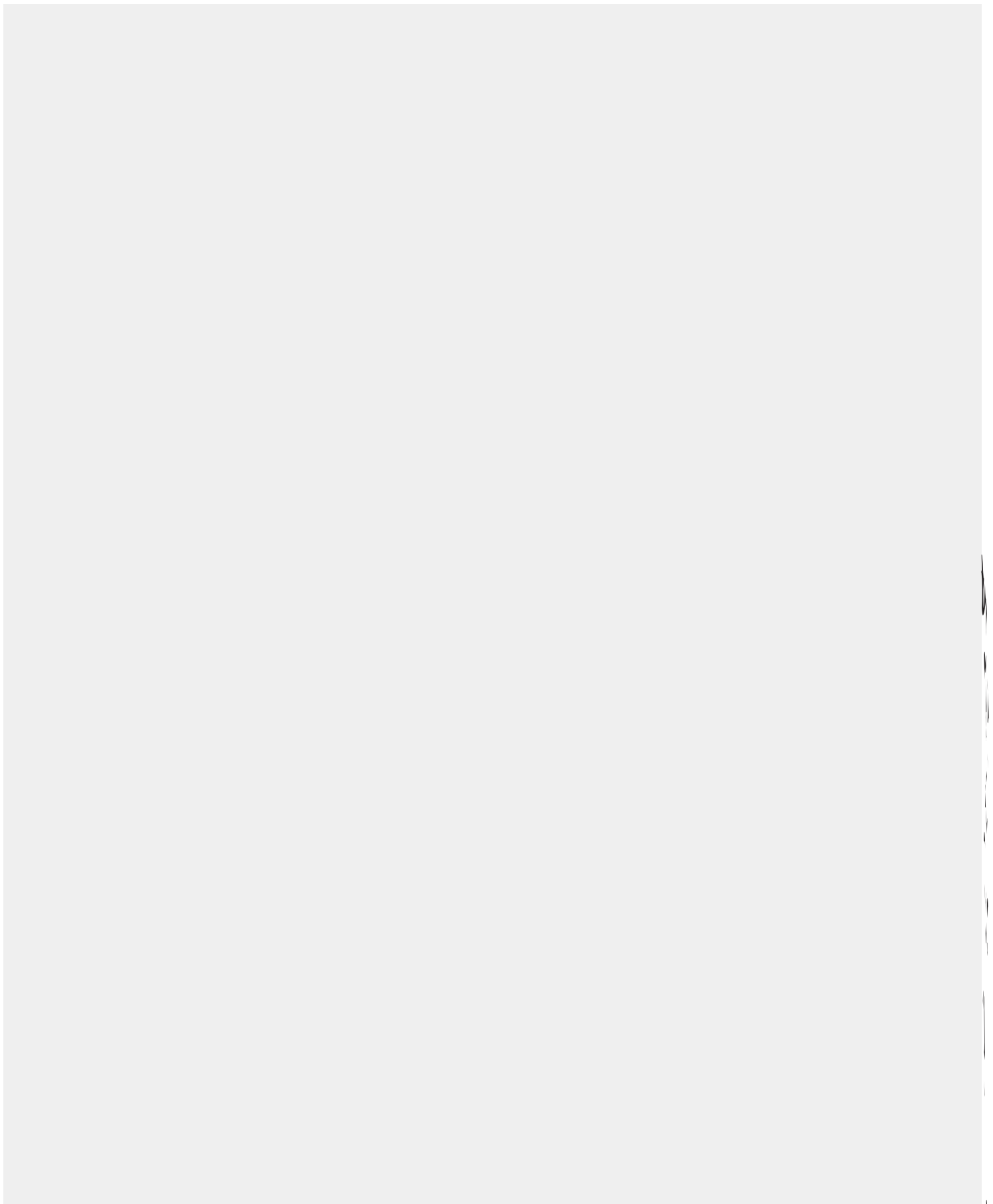
Best wishes,

Susan Pozo, Ph.D.

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Western Michigan University  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5492  
Phone (269) 387-5652







## Presidential scholar spotlight



*Morgan McCullough (center)*

This March, two of our GIST students, Morgan McCullough and Irene Kivinen, were among WMU's seniors recognized during the 38th annual Presidential Scholar's convocation. During her time at Western, McCullough, a double major in GIST and Spanish, pursued her interests in Arabic, gender and women studies, and the Middle East-North Africa region. She complemented this with study abroad trips to Spain, Peru and Morocco. She is one of the founding members of the Model United Nations Club at WMU and will be graduating this spring. Kivinen is also a double major in GIST and Spanish. While at WMU, she undertook study abroads in Santander and Burgos, Spain that provided her with an internship opportunity at a local bilingual elementary school. This sparked an interest in obtaining certification for teaching English abroad to further help others with language skills. She will be graduating in the fall of 2018.



*Irene Kivinen (center)*

## Student perspectives: A global internship

by Liliana Flores

I have had many great experiences at Western, but none quite like my internship experience. I recently interned with the Office of Migrant Affairs at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The Office of Migrant Affairs aids in the delivery of DHHS services to farmworkers and their families and while there I



focused on collecting data on migrant populations in Michigan. I also helped with evaluating the housing conditions of migrant and seasonal families while making sure that the families were aware of the benefits they are eligible for. Working with this diverse population showed me how these migrant and seasonal farmworkers, who contribute to Michigan's economy, are marginalized because of their poorer English language skills and their foreign-born status. I saw how job accessibility and uncertainty surrounding their status further contributed to their marginalization. This experience bolstered my understanding of the plight of migrants in Michigan, and I would recommend this internship opportunity to others.



*Alexis Lenderman (Far Right)*

## GIST trailblazer

The GIST program is proud to recognize one of its own, Alexis Lenderman, as one of the recipients of the 2017-2018 Trailblazer award. The Trailblazer program celebrates exceptional WMU students for their achievements in academics, personal and professional development, leadership and community or campus involvement. Alexis, a double major in Entrepreneurship and Global and International Studies, is an active member on campus, a Newman Civic fellow, and the owner of The Scholarship Expert LLC, a company that assists students in finding scholarships and grants.



## Congratulations to our recent graduates!

### Spring 2018 graduates

Kya Cain  
**Language: Spanish**

Citlali Alcaraz  
**Language: Spanish**

Caroline Swiercz  
**Language: Spanish**

Anna Kietzerow  
**Language: German**

Juan Garcia Flores  
**Language: French**

Mary Schuck  
**Language: Russian**

Luke Freeman  
**Language: Spanish**

Brendan Sapato  
**Language: Spanish**

Ahmina Graves  
**Language: Japanese**

Elizabeth Kell  
**Language: Korean**

Brenda Martinez  
**Language: Spanish**

Morgan McCullough  
**Language: Spanish**

John Bryer  
**Language: Russian**

*Minors: Erin Hard, Jessica Petersen, Rebecca Davis, Alison Bommarito, Brittany Little, Austin Lee, Mitchell Noss, Olivia Oerther, Kori Leighton, Joshua White, Lisah Crall, Annelise Wilp, Sydnie Queen, Jacob Vasquez, Sarah Ransone, Krystl Sladovnik, Keagan Gay, Alexander Bunner, Janiea Erquhart, Ali Orlandi, Ahry'Ana Puterbaugh*

Earlier issues of the Western Worldwide Newsletter are available on our website at [wmich.edu/globalstudies/about/newsletter](http://wmich.edu/globalstudies/about/newsletter).