

A stylized globe in shades of blue and grey, showing the continents of North America, South America, and Africa. The globe is set against a dark blue background. A large, solid yellow triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the image.

**learn.
share.
lead.**

GPL

**Global Peer & Leadership Conference
Spring 2021**

WELCOME! The Global Peer and Leadership Conference (GPL) is organized to allow globally minded university students the opportunity to engage with one another via presentations, discussion, and social activities.

By attending the GPL Conference, students will:

- Enhance their Cultural Competency including awareness, attitude, knowledge, and skills;
- Develop their understanding of advocacy for international education;
- Learn best practices related to peer outreach/engagement, mentoring and advising, policy, leadership development, community building, programming.



Schedule at a Glance

Time	Session	Link
8:00-8:30 a.m.	Coffee Social and Institutional Check-ins	Page 3
8:30-9:00 a.m.	Welcome and Keynote Speaker	Page 3
9:00-9:45 a.m.	SESSION ONE	
	Exploring Careers at the U.S. Department of State <i>Ms. Kris Sivertson, Diplomat in Residence</i>	Page 3
	What I Wish I Knew <i>Marian Mae Cedeno, University of the Incarnate Word</i>	Page 3
	Mutual Mentoring <i>Sister Martha Ann Kirk, CCVI, University of the Incarnate Word Professor Emerita of Religious Studies</i>	Page 3
9:45-9:50 a.m.	BREAK	N/A
9:50-10:35 a.m.	SESSION TWO	
	The Importance of Networking: WAC Community Building and Mentorship <i>World Affairs Council of San Antonio and Houston</i>	Page 4
	Unpacking the Study Abroad Experience <i>Dr. Blanton, University of the Incarnate Word</i>	Page 4
	The Limitation and Advantages of Virtual Peer Mentorship <i>Tayma Machkhas & Madison Rendall, University of Houston</i>	Page 4
10:35-10:45 a.m.	Institutional Check-Ins	Page 3
10:45-11:15 a.m.	SESSION THREE	
	Passport to Your Career <i>Maggie Mahoney, University of Houston</i>	Page 5
	Mexico: Perspective of a woman in a modern and macho environment <i>Anaeli Alvarez, University of the Incarnate Word</i>	Page 5
	International Student Experience Panel <i>Anas Zakir, University of the Incarnate Word</i>	Page 5
11:15-11:45 a.m.	SESSION FOUR: Interest Rooms	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity Abroad <i>Brooke Paynter, University of the Incarnate Word</i> • Global Ambassador Marketing and Outreach <i>Caleb Chapman, Texas A&M University</i> • Career Networking <i>Chris Gray, Rice University</i> • International Student Experience <i>Malin Hilmersson, Sam Houston State University</i> • Peer Mentor Self Care <i>Maggie Mahoney, University of Houston</i> 	Page 5
11:50 a.m.-Noon	Closing Remarks	Page 3
Noon-1:00 p.m.	Advisor Only Gathering	Page 3

Session Descriptions

GPL Main
ZOOM Room



The main Zoom Room will be used for the following sessions:

8:00-8:30 a.m.	Coffee Social and Institutional Check-Ins
8:30-9:00 a.m.	Welcome and Keynote Speaker
10:35-10:45 a.m.	Institutional Check-Ins
11:50 a.m.-Noon	Closing Remarks
Noon-1:00 p.m.	Advisor Only Gathering

Register in advance for these meetings:

<https://uiw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjYodOippz4sGdSFEaZjuY2da-BHS7Is8NEv>

SESSION ONE
BREAKOUTS
9:00-9:45 a.m.

Exploring Careers at the U.S. Department of State

Presented by Ms. Kris Sivertson, Texas Diplomat in Residence

Explore global careers, internships, and student programs in the U.S. Foreign Service. Connect with the U.S. Department of State Diplomat in Residence for Texas Kris Sivertson to hear about 24 different career tracks, application processes and timelines for employment and internships. Begin changing the world today!

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://uiw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjYqcOuqpz8oE92JpTa5dyD9DLZFzgtjylaY>

What I Wish I Knew: Apps and Websites that Make Studying Abroad Easy

Presented by Marian Mae Ceden, University of the Incarnate Word Global Ambassador

As an international student in the U.S. herself, Marian has experienced the struggles discussed in 'What I Wish I Knew'. There are many shared challenges international students face when coming to a new country. Simple things such as transportation, budgeting, restaurants that address specific dietary restrictions, places of worship, and local communities of their nationality can provide the support system students need to acclimate. This presentation will provide a list of applications and websites which help address these concerns. Participants will be encouraged to share applications that address the concerns they had or they think international students have upon coming to a new country.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://uiw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjEof-6upzkiE9MkhQPkiTrUZcBoICK1WMNS>

Mutual Mentoring: Promoting solidarity internationally and seeking to build healthier and more inclusive communities across borders in a virtual world

Presented by Sister Martha Ann Kirk, CCVI, University of the Incarnate Word Professor Emerita of Religious Studies

Faculty, staff, and students at the University of the Incarnate Word dedicate themselves to global understanding and mutual mentorship. In this presentation, Sister Martha Ann Kirk and various students will lead a discussion on how they planned and facilitated past events with partners across the world. Learn how to build tangible, meaningful, and culturally engaging relationships with people from other cultures virtually and how to maintain them. Presenters will also share their experiences in mutual mentorship, promoting solidarity internationally, and seeking to build healthier and more inclusive communities across borders in a virtual world.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://uiw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjUoc-GvrzsrGNGynUNRVNm0YuLOV_As2ajr

**SESSION TWO
BREAKOUTS
9:50-10:35 a.m.**

The Importance of Networking: WAC Community Building and Mentorship

Presented by the World Affairs Councils of San Antonio and Houston

The World Affairs Council promotes internationally minded programs and educational initiatives in over 90 cities around the United States. The opportunities afforded to World Affairs members focus on community building, membership, global education and enable members to network with vital community figures in both local and global affairs. World Affairs Councils of San Antonio (WACOFSA) staff Samantha Skory and Isabella Cibelli Du Terroil will discuss WACOFSA's emphasis on community building with initiatives such as Young Professionals, Academic World Quest, monthly panel discussions, and nationwide cooperation. Additionally, Maryanne Maldonado will represent the World Affairs Council of Greater Houston and discuss how to OWN your power, how having a mentor can help you see your highest potential when it's hidden from view.



Register in advance for this meeting:

https://uiw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjEtfuispjosE9UcDutZ_tkK5f6TcRkqB5Vh

Unpacking the Study Abroad Experience

Presented by Dr. Raymond Blanton, University of the Incarnate Word Assistant Professor of Communication Arts & Faculty-Led Program Leader

While there are many ways to conceptualize the importance of travel, Dr. Blanton focuses on how travel mediates encounters with others in ways that enable us to judge more justly. We will explore alternative means of travel to challenge the dominant paradigms of tourism and help develop critically conscious reflections on culture and politics of place, whether domestic or abroad. This presentation will deliver an interactive discussion that focuses on student study abroad experiences with strategies for how to unpack these experiences upon returning "home" to deepen connection and mentorship opportunities. Dr. Blanton hopes to inspire students to seek travel experiences as a lifestyle rather than just a summer in college.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://uiw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjYtfuCrqzgsG9C7qYbsLI_4pjW9ufggDkPd

The Limitation and Advantages of Virtual Peer Mentorship

Presented by Tayma Machkhas, University of Houston Global Guide; and Madison Rendall, University of Houston Learning Abroad Graduate Assistant Student Advisor

COVID-19 created an immediate and unprepared shift towards virtual life. This leaves little room for students trying to connect with their peers in a personal way. Student mentors are exploring uncharted territory in creating supportive and thoughtful environments for their peers, of which we will examine the limitations and advantages. Attendees will learn about the pros and cons that come with serving as mentors to peers via the virtual format that we are having to rely on during a global pandemic. As well, we'll discuss different and innovative ways to connect with peers in a leadership role.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://uiw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjMvdu6trTwpHt1tpSHG9ISxIEbWmZvziDfg>



**SESSION THREE
BREAKOUTS**
10:45-11:15 a.m.

Passport to Your Career

Presented by Maggie Mahoney, University of Houston's Assistant Director of Learning Abroad

This session will discuss the best ways to include your international experience in your job search. From many transferable skills gained during your experiences studying/interning/living abroad, to how to include your experience on your resume and during an interview, and ways to network with your unique experience in mind. Participants will leave this session with a visual example of education abroad experience on a resume as well as a list of common skills gained during an education abroad program.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://uiw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwsdOutrTMiE9xwQ3KNfZS4gG1zCBixocUM>

Mexico: Perspectives of a woman in a modern and macho environment

Presented by Anaeli Alvarez, University of the Incarnate Word Global Ambassador

Having had the experience of being a Mexican woman studying abroad in Texas, Anaeli shares her cultural knowledge of the societal expectations of women's education in Mexico. Themes such as looking to study abroad, work, or live in Mexico will be covered. Are you mentoring Mexican students or are interested in advocacy in international education? This session is for you! By teaching about our traditions and cultural perspective we share a knowledge that comes from generations of women.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://uiw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjAuc-qprjgiHNdJH24eymi51eOPilz1jicl>

International Student Experience Panel

Presented by Anas Zakir, University of the Incarnate Word Global Ambassador

UIW Global Ambassador, Anas Zakir, hosts two former beneficiaries of the Global Ambassador program at UIW to discuss their international experience with the goal of inspiring other global peers to make the most of their experience. Attendees will learn the importance of leadership and communication skills for personal growth.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://uiw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjlpceGhqTMpH9SHtUVj1_bXXcKFeGwkBoc3

**SESSION FOUR
ROUND TABLES**
11:15-11:45 a.m.

Diversity Abroad

Moderated by Brooke Paynter, University of the Incarnate Word's Study Abroad & Exchange Coordinator

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://uiw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjYqcOmoqz0tG9CpHWjxxvQ3gGDjGe5ZLhn>

Global Ambassador Marketing and Outreach

Moderated by Caleb Chapman, Texas A&M University's Education Abroad Communications Coordinator

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://uiw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjllduyqrz8pE9PmirgN9QUncom2wndZ2wd>

Career Networking

Moderated by Chris Gray, Rice University's Study Abroad Advisor

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://uiw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjqdumpqDgrGdaOiXKPf4Qk0AL4GTstuQJ0>

International Student Experience

Moderated by Malin Hilmersson, Sam Houston State University's Study Abroad Coordinator

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://uiw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwufuyorTgqE90r1d4F8jXWpFfc2vhPTchF>

Peer Mentor Self Care

Moderated by Maggie Mahoney, University of Houston's Assistant Director of Learning Abroad

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://uiw.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjUufuCsrz4iHtUNDgbe0vKkDDK8JCNCBWvQ>



This publication is available in alternate format by request. To request an alternate format, please contact Study Abroad and Exchange Coordinator, Brooke Paynter, at paynter@uiwtx.edu. The University of the Incarnate Word provides reasonable accommodation with adequate notice. To request disability accommodation for this event, visit the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) website](#).