Welcome back to campus!

It has been a great privilege to serve as the Director of OUS for the past four years and work with our outstanding group of scholars in both OUS and First Gen. It has also been an honor to work with our talented staff who work tirelessly to support you in all you do. Heartfelt thanks to Frank Kuan, Drea Finley, Salote Tenisi, Fareeza Islam, Christelle Boursiquot, Natasha Torres, and Melissa Melendez. Our combined success these past four years is in large part because of their wisdom, passion, dedication, and compassion.

I want to tell you that OUS represents Colgate at its very best. It is sometimes difficult to pull back and see our collective accomplishments when we are so busy with the semester. But, I interact with a number of administrators, faculty, and staff and consistently hear that we are leaders in the classroom, in research, and in student organizations, and that we have a consistent positive impact in our local community, our home community, and our international community through research and study abroad programs. If you take a close look at the landscape of Colgate, you will see us everywhere: leading organizations, pursuing athletic championships, standing for honors, being selected for prestigious opportunities, studying and researching around the world, and winning numerous awards.

Our greatest strength, however, is that we are a true family of scholars. Our community listens to and respects one another, thrives off the successes of our family members, and rallies to support each other at a moment’s notice. Now more than ever we need to stand in solidarity with each other, support one another, welcome others into our inclusive family, and lead by example.

We are looking forward to celebrating our rich history on campus (our golden anniversary coincides with the bicentennial), and have begun collecting information and images from the archives under Salote’s careful leadership. This is a very exciting project, and I’m looking forward to honoring those who have come before us.

I’m so very proud of all of you. Let’s go get it this semester.

Frank Frey, Director - OUS
CLASS OF 2020

Photo credit Salote Tenisi '15
These are the people behind OUS & First Generation

FRANK KUAN  FRANK FREY  SALOTE TENISI  DREA FINLEY  DAYNA CAMPBELL
NEW HOUSE RENOVATIONS!
Haven opened this past fall as a new space to support individuals who have experienced sexual violence and other forms of violence. The center provides confidential care, support, advocacy and trauma-informed clinical services.

Our clinicians Denise Contreras (Assistant Director) and Dawn LaFrance (Director of Counseling Services and Haven) run groups and individual sessions for students. Our outreach efforts foster dialogue about gender-based violence, relationship violence, power and control, consent, characteristics and associated problems of nonconsensual sex, bystander education, and how to support/hold space for those who experience any form of violence.

As the Residential Fellow for Haven my work is focused on outreach and collaborating with departments, student organizations and efforts that have existed prior to our center’s opening. My work thus far has included doing workshop and presentations for classes, training student leaders, first years and athletic groups, shaping the new Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Coalition, and creating programming that fosters spaces for healing and support.

As a center we work closely with This Is Not A Play About Sex, Yes Means Yes, The Network, Athletics, Office of Equity and Diversity, Women Studies, and more. Haven is located in Curtis at the Garden Level. You can make appointments via the counseling center and stop by at any time to get a tour!
Natasha Torres is a graduate of Colgate University. She majored in Educational Studies and Women’s Studies. As a student she was a part of the OUS Scholars program, ITS Services, co-founded the Association of Critical Collegians and the Social Justice House (Bunche House), was co-chairwoman of Sisters of the Round Table, and participated on the OUS Advisory Board.
“Environmental Problems and Environmental Activism in China” was not only cross-listed in ASIA, ENST, and SOCI, but it also used the InterGroup Relations pedagogy to help us learn about our own positionality in the power dynamics embedded in the issues we were studying. I’m a China scholar who has been traveling to be PRC for decades, but I learned so much new on this trip seeing China through the students’ eyes, and through the eyes of my co-professor, Professor Baptiste.

First, I’m not an environmental studies person, so it changed my perspective to view things through the expertise that ENST Professor April Baptiste and ENST students like Roxanne Maduro and Martha Montufar brought to the trip. For example, the Great Wall was no longer just a tourist attraction or historical artifact, but also a structure that cuts the natural environment around it in half, that attracts development and disrupts traditional agriculture, and that generates huge amount of trash.

Second, I was so impressed with how the students critically engaged with issues of power, privilege, and positionality wherever we went. I have long noticed that when I go from the US to China, I go from being a minority to member of the majority. Each student also dealt with shifting identities, though in their own way. The white students became minorities, while Latinos and Blacks faced the fact that their racial identity suddenly became much less important than their national identity. This meant that they were lumped in with white people, which was disconcerting. Asian students faced versions of the belonging/not belonging conundrum. Students for whom a lower class identity is very salient at Colgate realized that they were seems as upper class in China, just by virtue of their education and the dollar-yuan exchange rate. We all wrestled with the face that we were critiquing the ways that tourism and consumerism damage China’s environment, exacerbate economic inequality, and exploit the culture of minority groups -- even as we were thoroughly enjoying being tourists and consumers. (It’s really a lot of fun to shop in China!)

I confess that I was very nervous about taking the extended study because I’ve never done it before. (Professor Baptiste can attest that I tried to talk her into bailing on the whole thing.) Yet it turned out to be one of the most fulfilling things I’ve done at Colgate, and I am grateful to Professor Baptiste and all the students for the experience!

-Carolyn Hsu
“My time in China was fundamental for me to question my role as a tourist and as a visitor in a foreign country. With the help of fellow classmates and faculty, I was able to understand power dynamics at play and attempt to continue deconstructing incorrect opinions that I was taught previously. I hope that all my classmates grew stronger devotion for the environment as I did during the trip.”

-Valeria Felix ‘18

Traveling to China was an incredible experience that allowed all of us to partake of the culture in different ways. Learning in a desk in a Lathrop classroom does not capture the intensity of environmental issues or activism that goes on in Chinese cities or even the history that is present in every stone, every palace, and every street. I strongly believe that one has to actually go to the country itself to learn to appreciate it and see it through a loving eye (as Mariana Ortega instructs us travelers to do) and to be aware of our positionality and nationality when learning other cultures, beliefs, and activisms. -Martha Montufar ‘17

As someone who loves to travel and observe and be immersed in different cultures, co-leading an extended study to China was a very exciting opportunity for me. What was really amazing was being able to share this experience with a group to deep critical thinkers and engaged student body who not only challenged themselves but also challenged me in the process. The semester long course which only began to scratch the surface of environmental problems and activism in China, took on a whole new life of its own when we got to China. From observing the lost of agricultural land to make way for urban development like universities and high-speed rail systems in Kunming, to the issue of limited solid waste management services in Lijang and finally to living through a few hours of low air quality in Beijing were all lived experiences that would not have been gained by simply being in the classroom. The intergroup dialogue techniques that were incorporated into the class bore fruits on the extended study. To travel with a group of 21 students and not have any major conflicts was indeed a blessing that speaks volumes to the maturity and character of the students on the trip. But I also think that having experienced a semester of interacting with each other in a setting where students were challenged to engage in difficult conversations among themselves, provided a safe space that encouraged honesty, vulnerability and support. Hence traveling for two and a half weeks together made the relationships develop even deeper than what the allowed during the semester. I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this group, this trip and the opportunity to be able to learn from my co-facilitator Prof. Hsu, and from my students.

-April Baptiste
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OUS SCHOLARS INDUCTED TO THE CLASS OF 2018 KONOSIONI HONOR SOCIETY

Tasnim Ali
Valeria Felix
Bobbie Howie
Shemuel Malave
Jehdeiah Mixon
Lúcién Reubens

MERITORIOUS
Mer-i-tawr-ee-uh s
Adjective

OUS
WORD

DESERVING REWARD OR PRAISE
DEAN'S LIST

~ SPRING '16 ~

Congratulations to the following OUS/First Scholars who have earned the Dean's Award recognition by achieving a 3.30 or higher GPA while successfully completing at least 3.75 course hours.

Dahiana Acosta '16
Imani (Mimi) Ballard '18
Alexis Beamon '17
Ashley Brekke '16
Mary Bryce '19
Claudia Buszta '19
Yesu Carter '19
Mylah Chandler '19
Nina Cook '17
Regine (Ré) Cooper '19
D'Jonita Cottrell '19
Monica Dimas '19
Vanessa Escobar '19
Ricky Fernandez '18
Ada Gao '19
Tabitha Gomez '19
Larissa Grijalva '17
Samira Gure '19
Bennie Guzman '17
John Itua '16
Keyra Jimenez '19
David (DJ) Jordan '17
Emelei Klein '19
Jia Bao (JB) Lei '17
Manny Medina '17
Cynthia Melendez '19
Cassie Miller '19
Kemarni Munroe '17
Tram Nguyen '16
Ashleandra Opoku '17
Tyrell Roberts '19
Estrella Rodriguez '17
Providence Ryan '16
Dayanara Salazar '18
Aishwarya Teegala '16
Yogita Telhu '17
Alicia Violette '19
Maria Vorobyeva '18
Hong (Cindy) Vuong '19
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