

GLOBETROTTER

GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

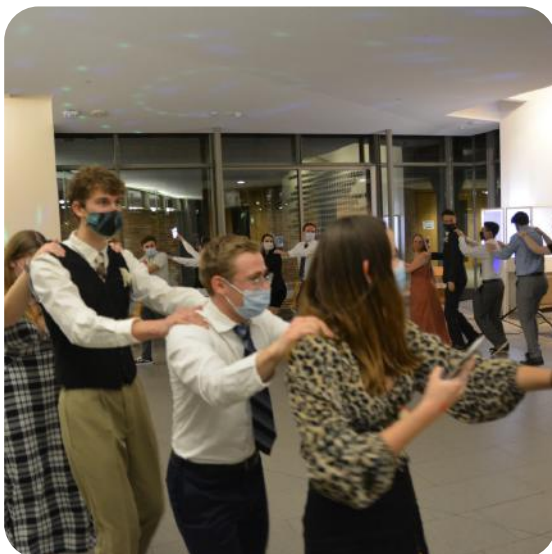
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INTERNATIONAL PROM --BY JEREMY CALDEIRA--

On Thursday, December 2nd, 2021, Global Ambassadors hosted the first ever International Prom, in the Miller Hall Collaborative Space. The idea to host such an event originated in the founding members of the club, with the original plan being to host one in June of 2020. However, the pandemic delayed this plan, and the Global Ambassadors Officer Team was finally able to implement this idea!



Officers and volunteers set up the space with lights, streamers, disco balls, and more. There was a photobooth, with volunteer and camera-whiz Sam Jung taking wonderful pictures, a station to make boutonnieres and corsages, and the main attraction, the dance floor, where throughout the night, music from throughout the world was danced to. All in all, over 50 students attended, raising \$250! These funds will go directly back into funding future activities hosted by Global Ambassadors. While the event was fun, it was also bittersweet, as goodbyes were said to the many international students leaving in the next few weeks. We wish those students the best of luck in everything they do!



MEET AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT --OMAR THALIB--



Hi, my name is Omar Thalib from Jakarta, Indonesia. I'm a 21 year old international student at Western Washington University. I was introduced to Western during my college years at Whatcom Community College. I really liked living in Bellingham and wanted to stay in Bellingham after I graduated from Whatcom Community College. Bellingham is a nice small city, and I really need a break from big cities since I've been living in a big urban cities through out my life. I chose

Western also because I heard they have a good Political Science program, which I am now majoring in.

I've lived outside my country since I was in Junior High, and when I was in the 7th grade I spent my summer in Istanbul, Turkey for a cultural exchange and folklore festival program. The next year, I also did the same program in Rabat and Casablanca, Morocco. After I graduated from Junior High, I joined an exchange student program to Helsinki, Finland where I spent more than a year of my high school years. I moved to Bellingham to attend Whatcom Community College as a running start student right after my exchange year in Finland. India is one country that I have not explored yet that I really want to visit; I just want to explore the culinary and the culture of the country!



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OFFICER SPOTLIGHT --ANNA SUTHERLAND--

My name is Anna Sutherland. I am originally from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan but have lived in Washington state for the last three years. I am double majoring in Political Science and Spanish with an honors minor. I fell in love with traveling in 2018 when I decided to become an exchange student to Costa Rica during the summer for a month. I made lifelong friends and a second family from the experience and returned a year later for another month.

Since then, I have been to France, England, Canada, and around thirty other states in the US. I have hopes to study abroad in Spain my last year of college and pursue the path of a foreign service officer creating more opportunities to travel. I became involved with the Global Ambassadors Club through my position as a peer advisor in the education abroad department at Western and involvement with international students throughout the years.

In addition to studying abroad my family has hosted students from the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, South Korea, and China. Intercultural experiences have greatly shaped who I am today, and I could not be more thankful for it.



IMPORTANT DATES

Games Night

January 20, 6-7pm, MH 131
Come join Global Ambassadors as we relax and play some board games and/or Jackbox! The plan is for this event to be in-person, but depending on the COVID situation, this event may move online.

Coffee Social

February 3, 6-7pm,
Underground Coffeehouse
Details TBD

Valentine's Day Event

February 17, 6-7 pm
Details TBD

Ed-Abroad Con

Feb 22-Feb 25
See next issue for more!

Event #4

Details TBD



BLOG: GOODBYES HURT

I wrote this when leaving Portugal, but it is fitting to bring this back in honor of my new friends...

...And its not just goodbyes to people in my new home that hurt. I will miss the amazing international network here that has opened up my mind to new perspectives. I have been able to explore new countries through vivid tales of shenanigans in villages and cities alike, and have repainted my conceptions of certain nationalities through observations of their mannerisms, whether in the form of body language, slang, or even humor. All the countries I have forever poured over on maps and learn every detail about have become realities right in front of me. I will miss how happy, cheerful and kind everyone is here. I will miss the beautiful weather. I will miss the colorful streets that brightened even my darkest days with their murals and tile-work. I will miss the drinks I shared with friends at bars whilst mingling with the locals. The list goes on. All of those have become my home. But, despite my going home, I will stay at home as well. All these memories will forever stay with me, and the lessons I have learned on this trip will manifest into what I hope is good back home. Home will stay with me as I finally return home. I will continue to speak the languages I have learned! I will continue to keep in contact with this network of international friends I have built! I will continue to stay aware of international issues by continuing to take international studies courses at Western! I will continue to stay engaged! I cannot let my home leave me. I cannot say goodbye to that home. Goodbyes hurt...



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Hello readers,

I hope you had a magnificent Winter Break, and have also enjoyed the recent three-day weekend in celebration of MLK. We hope to see you at events soon (that will hopefully be in-person). We have plans to have a games night this coming Tuesday in person in Miller Hall 131, but if the situation dictates that it is unsafe to do so, we will move online. But, all other events will be in-person.

For now, enjoy re-capping and viewing photos from our first International Prom, which was a rousing success, and meeting Omar and Anna.

We hope to see you at an event sometime soon!

Safe Travels,

Jeremy Caldeira

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