

# IGS NEWS LETTER

Spring 2021

## WHERE TO NEXT?

An overview of the Mercer IGS Department new faculty and events, seniors' accomplishments, advice and goals for the future.



# Editorial

As the year comes to a close, I want to congratulate all of the faculty, staff, and students in the IGS department for getting through a tough semester.

Firstly, I'd like to congratulate Dr. Rachael Goodman for a wonderful first year at Mercer! She's done a fabulous job, and I cannot wait to see what she does in the future. I'd also like to recognize Dr. Ryan Torkaz for joining the Mercer family this upcoming year.

In this edition of the newsletter, the GHIA board would like to celebrate all of our seniors' accomplishments. You all have worked so hard over the past four years at Mercer, and it is only right to recognize your work.

My hope is that you all have a wonderful future and take what you've learned here into your life. Go out and change the world.

*- Parneeta Mohapatra, Chief Editor*







# DR. RACHAEL GOODMAN, PH.D.



## **LET'S WELCOME DR. RACHAEL GOODMAN TO THE IGS DEPARTMENT!**

Dr. Rachael Goodman joined the Mercer faculty in 2020 as an assistant professor of Global Development Studies. She received her Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, researching development projects in north India. Although Dr. Goodman did not know exactly which area she wanted to study after her undergraduate degree, she knew that she wanted to do anthropology. Eventually, she found a development-focused NGO in the Himalayas that had been in place for many years. Her work consisted of 18 months of fieldwork in the Himalayas, studying and working with the NGO to see how ideas of well-being shaped economic development projects.

After her Ph.D., Dr. Goodman taught anthropology at the University of Southern Mississippi. Her current research explores the impacts of globalization, international volunteering, regional economic change, and shifting ideas of the good life on economic development.

In her spare time, Dr Goodman enjoys making food, especially her favorites from India, and knitting. She also loves spending time with her dog, Kima. She is very passionate about her discipline, and loves keeping up with new journals and studies on development.

Dr. Goodman loves being at Mercer because of the students and her amazing colleagues. She enjoys that the student body is diverse, and that everyone is committed to what they are studying. She loves that the Mercer community fosters student passion and encourages productive discussions.

# IGS Scholarships & Fellowships

## BOREN SCHOLARSHIP



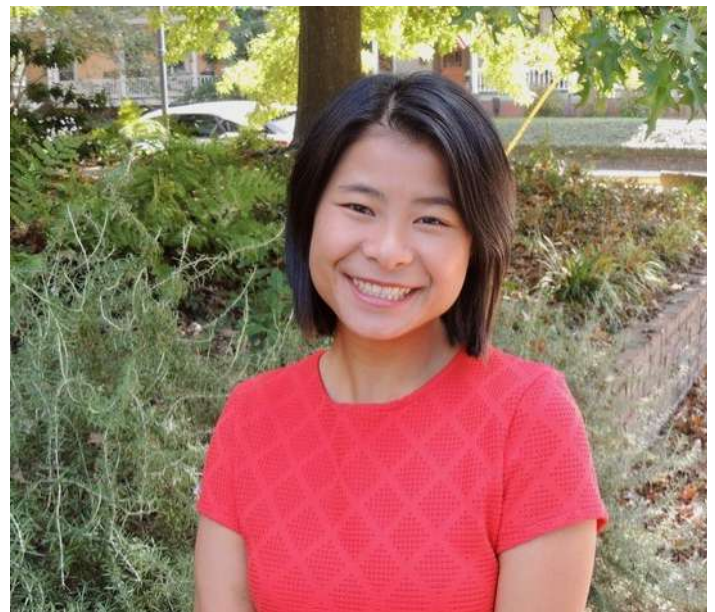
### THEORI HENRY

"Boren Scholars commit one year to public service, working in positions critical to U.S. national security throughout the federal government, following their study overseas. As a Boren Scholar, Henry will participate in intensive language study through domestic and overseas language programs in Swahili."

## TEACH THAILAND CORPS

### SALLY DEITCHAMN

"TTC teachers have a special opportunity to help lay a solid foundation in the education of children that will shape the life trajectories of students and their communities—and impact Thailand's development—in profound ways. Sally plans to teach English as a second language abroad."



# IGS Honors & Awards

## Bear Awards 2021

**Papa Joe Hendricks Award for Positive Contributions to the Mercer Community**

Savannah Lackey

**BEAR Award for Outstanding Campus Involvement**

Jordan Pruitt | Ally Driver | Sally Deitchman | Tiffany Goerge

Katie Franklin | Emma Kraft

**The Diversity Inclusion Excellence Student Award**

Emma Kraft

## Honors Convocation

**Global Development Studies Outstanding Senior and Spirit of INT Award** - Sally Deitchman

**Global Health Studies Outstanding Senior Award 2021** - Ally Driver

**J. Marion Roberts Scholarship 2020** - Ally Driver

**Global Health Outstanding Junior Award 2021** - Parneeta Mohapatra

**Integrative Inquiry Award and Top INT Award 2021** - Jordan Pruitt

**Meghan D. Murphy Memorial Scholarship Award** - Danielle Countryman

## Extracurriculars

**Southern Conference Honor Roll** - Sarah Adcock | Lily Stauble

**Southern Conference Commissioner's Academic Medal, Academic All-Southern**

**Conference Team in 2019, 2020** - Natalie Sannes

**SOCON All-Conference Team 2018, All SOCON Freshman Team 2017** - Kareve Richards

**Service Scholars** - Ally Driver | Danielle Countryman

**Peace Corps Prep Certification** - Danielle Countryman | Cameron Dawkins | Okungu Xernona

**NPDA National Debate Champion 2019 and Debate Scholarship** - Cameron Dawkins

**Visionary Student Panel Grantee** - Sally Deitchman

**John M. Couric Media Fellow** - Nadia Pressley

**Leadership Mercer Cohort** - Nadia Pressley | Jaydon Taylor | Vidya Ganapathy

## Fellowships and Scholarships

**Fulbright S/R Semi-Finalist** - Vidya Ganapathy

## Phi Beta Kappa

Danielle Countryman | Cameron Dawkins | Sally

Deitchman | Vidya Ganapathy | Theori Henry





# IGS Senior Spotlight

*Spring 2021*

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Mercer University



## Inam Ghulamhussain

**Majors:** Global Health Studies and Global Development Studies

Inam plans to move to Washington D.C. next fall to attend George Washington University's Milken Institute of Public Health for a Masters In Public Health in Epidemiology.

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*"Make and maintain relationships with your professors, because they will be the ones that help you the most. Your professors will help you decide what you want to do, how to do it, and help you find the most reasonable path towards it."*

## Ally Grayson Driver

**Major:** Global Health Studies

**Minors:** History, French, and Anthropology

Ally plans to attend the University of Georgia's College of Public Health to pursue her Ph.D. in Health Promotion & Behavior. She plans to concentrate on sexual and reproductive health with a research focus on intimate partner violence and HIV/AIDS.

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*"Make strong connections with your professors, because they will help connect you to many Global Health opportunities. Try to be involved as much as possible, because grad schools want to see your experience and how well you apply knowledge."*



## Sarah H. Adcock

**Major:** Global Health Studies

**Minors:** Marketing and Art

Sarah plans to pursue a career in digital media marketing.

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*"Do not be afraid to change your major. If you are not learning something you are passionate about, then you are taking the wrong classes. You do not want to look back at college and regret not taking certain classes because you were scared to branch out. Life is too short for you to choose a career based on a salary."*





## Danielle N. Countryman

**Majors:** Global Health Studies,  
International Affairs, and Anthropology

**Minor:** Spanish

Danielle plans to attend the Milken Institute of Public Health at George Washington University to obtain a MPH in Global Health Policy.

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*"(1) IGS professors can be professional and non-professional resources, so don't be afraid to chat with them about your interests and hobbies outside of class. (2) If you are willing and able, study abroad more than once! (3) Talk to non-IGS people about global health. Both of you will learn from the dialogue, so embrace it."*

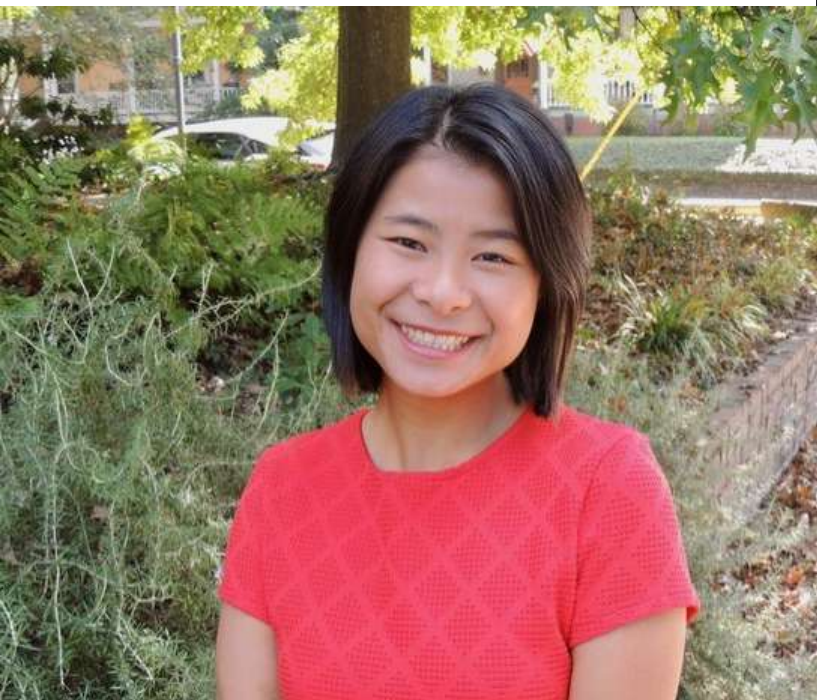
## Natalie I. Sannes

**Majors:** Psychology and Global Health Studies

Natalie plans to take a gap year to work/gain more experience before applying to Masters of Social Work Programs.

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*"Don't take anything for granted. College goes by so fast, so try and enjoy the moment instead of stressing about the future!"*



## Sally Deitchman

**Majors:** Global Health Studies and  
Global Development Studies

**Minor:** Environmental Studies

Sally plans to teach English as a second language abroad for a year in either Thailand, through the Teach Thailand Corps, or Japan through JET. Following that, Sally plans to pursue a PhD in global development from a university in the UK.

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*"Find a balance! School is important and should take priority but it's just as meaningful to spend time doing things you enjoy."*





## Cameron Dawkins

**Majors:** Global Health Studies and Spanish

**Minor:** Women and Gender Studies

During the summer, Cameron plans on working as a COVID-19 contact tracing intern and then, next fall, attending either Emory University or University of Denver for grad school or joining the Peace Corps.

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*"The more attentive and deliberate you are about taking care of your mental health, the more time you can spend getting involved, finding new opportunities, and taking advantage of the opportunities Mercer has to offer. Make sure that there's balance!"*

## Jaydon E. Taylor

**Major:** Global Health Studies

**Minor:** French

Upon graduation, Jaydon will be pursuing a Master of Public Health with a concentration on Health Management and Policy at Georgia State University.

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*"Make connections with your teachers early, it's nearly impossible to make it into graduate school, internships, and clubs without a recommendation from a teacher. Also, make sure that you have a classroom presence, whether that be leading discussion or simply sitting in the front of the room, always leave your mark in every class that you take!"*



## Tamara Sumer Barnard

**Majors:** Global Health Studies and Anthropology

Tamara will be pursuing a Master of Public Health at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health in the Department of Global Health with a concentration in infectious disease.

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*"Step out of your comfort zone, and do not let fear of the unknown stop you. Take and enjoy every opportunity and experience that you can while at Mercer!"*







## Sydney A. Parker

**Majors:** Global Health Studies and French

Sydney plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Public Health, with a concentration in Environmental Health.

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*"Continue to stay persistent. Look to your future goals and start planning early. Believe in yourself and stay focused on your goals. You can do anything.."*

## Xernona A. Okungu

**Major:** Global Health Studies

**Minor:** Statistics

Xernona is planning on pursuing a Masters of Public Health at the Colorado School of Public Health.

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*"It's okay to not know where you might be headed in life."*



## Francis Austin Humphrey

**Majors:** International Affairs and Global Health Studies

**Minor:** History

Austin plans to attend Georgia Tech' Sam Nunn School of International Affairs where he will work toward earning a Master of Science in International Affairs

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*"If I could sit down and offer advice to incoming IAF students, I would stress the importance of creating and maintaining relationships with your professors and fellow classmates. They are the people you will be learning with and from. Having these connections will serve as a strong foundation of your professional networking."*





## Jordan K. Pruitt

**Majors:** Biology and Spanish

**Minor:** Global Health Studies

Jordan will be taking a gap year to work at her local hospital to gain patient hours. After her gap year, she will be attending PA school!

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*"Go into each of your GHS classes with an open mind. There is sooooo much that I learned in each class that challenged my views on the world and how to effectively address global health issues. Also, take the time to get to know the GHS faculty. They truly are THE BEST and have so much knowledge and wisdom to share!"*

## Kareve Richards

**Major:** Global Health Studies

**Minor:** Communications

Kareve plans on completing a Master's Program in Health Administration or pursuing internships with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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*"Study and manage your time well. Be friendly with a lot of people, it makes for great networking."*



## Vidya Ganapathy

**Major:** Global Health Studies

**Minors:** Biology and Chemistry

Vidya will be attending Mercer University School of Medicine as part of the M.D. program starting August 2021.

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*"Step out of your comfort zone and take classes that you think you may not be interested in. Chances are that you'll learn more than you'd ever imagined and it will end up being influential in your life."*







## Kristen Powell

**Major:** Global Health Studies

**Minor:** Philosophy

Kristen will be pursuing a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at Georgia Southern University's Waters College of Health Professions.

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*"Find a mentor and be a mentor. It is so important to have someone to talk to who has gone through similar experiences as you're going through! As you grow during your time at Mercer, be sure to give back and be a mentor to incoming students as well!"*

## Emma Kraft

**Majors:** Global Development, International Affairs, Spanish, and Political Science

**Minor:** Business Administration

Emma will be working as a Media Liaison for the Consulate of Taiwan in Atlanta.

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*"Don't just cram information before tests, focus on actually retaining it! We're super fortunate to study such relevant issues in IGS and the information you learn will prove useful for more than just passing exams."*



## Maegan Burns

**Major:** Global Health Studies

**Minor:** French

Maegan will be taking a gap semester before attending nursing school in Florida.

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*"Give yourself a break from time to time! (and your professors). While it is important to do well academically, it is also important to treat yourself like a human being and take time for yourself here and there."*







## Junho Kim

**Major:** Global Health Studies

**Minor:** Psychology

Junho will be taking a gap year to travel, work, and find opportunities for IGS related internships leading up to going to graduate school.

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*"Take your time with things and try to be prepared because it all goes really fast. Most importantly, don't forget to have fun."*

## Leda Dixon

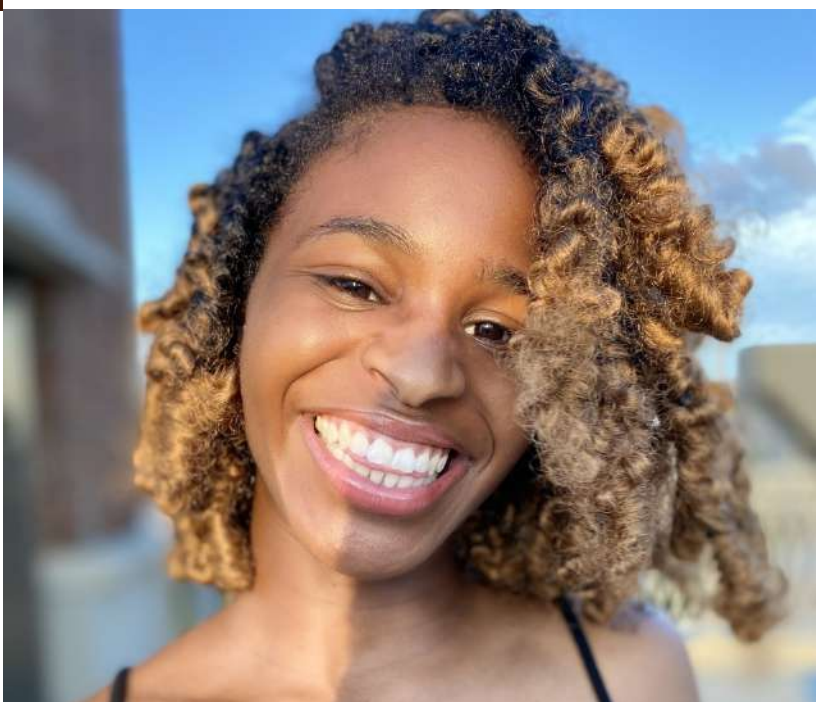
**Major:** Global Health Studies

**Minor:** Pre-Physical Therapy Track

Leda will be taking a gap year and working as a PT Technician while applying to PT schools.

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*"Exhaust every resource presented by professors, advisors, and the university. Take steps on the path you want to take now rather than waiting until senior year."*



## Katie Franklin

**Major:** Biology

**Minors:** Global Health Studies, Ethics, and Chemistry

Katie was accepted as a graduate student in the doctoral program in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida. She will be pursuing degrees in the MA/PhD dual program in Biological Anthropology.

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*"My advice to underclassmen is to diversify your education. Taking the most diverse and multidisciplinary approach to my undergraduate career has set me up for success in the next stage of my life. I am so excited to pursue my PhD in a field that combines my love for biology with my love for anthropology."*



## Alessandra Poblete

**Major:** Global Health Studies

**Minors:** Biology and Chemistry, Pre-Dental Track

Alessandra will be taking a gap-year to work as a dental assistant and apply to dental schools. She hopes to travel, spend time with family and friends, and volunteer at the Macon Volunteer Clinic.

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*"Be vulnerable and don't be afraid to make mistakes. Find a healthy balance between study, classes, work, your friends, and family. Maintain good direction and keep a good head on your shoulders. Times will get hard, but no matter what, continue to be your biggest supporter, know your value, and work hard to chase your dreams."*

## Lily Stauble

**Major:** Global Health Studies

**Minors:** Chemistry, Biology

Lily will be pursuing a Masters in Public Health program at New York University.

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*"Don't stress about figuring out what you want to do early on. Try different things out and make sure it's the best fit for you!"*



## Angelo Malacapay

**Major:** Global Health Studies

**Minors:** Chemistry

Angelo will be pursuing a direct-entry Masters of Nursing.

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*"Use your freshman year to make your mistakes!"*





## Serenity Tyler

**Major:** Global Health Studies

Serenity will be taking a gap year. During this year, she is serving on the board of a nonprofit, Love Never Fails International. She will also be on a research team that will analyze data on school shootings with the hopes of preventing these events in the future.

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*"Take advantage of research opportunities and the advice your professors give."*

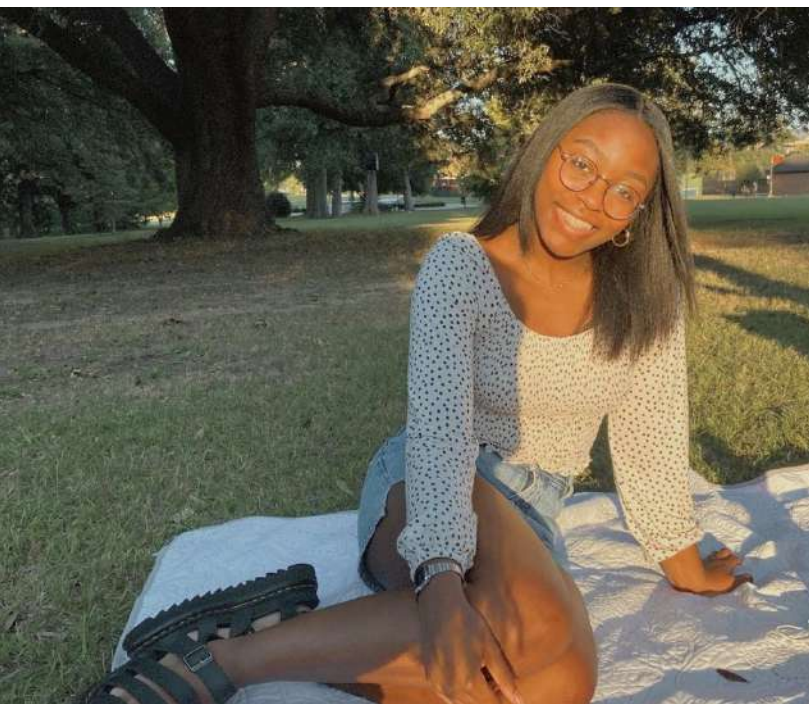
## Tiffany George

**Major:** Global Health Studies and Global Development Studies

Tiffany will be deferring admission to the Rollins School of Public Health for a year to work remotely as a Regional Director for Delight Ministries! Afterward, she'll start grad school at Emory's Rollins School of Public Health, pursuing a Master of Public Health in Global Epidemiology with the Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholarship .

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*"Pursue every opportunity! Don't get lazy or underestimate your abilities! You've got this, and your professors are backing you 100%!"*



## Nadia Pressley

**Majors:** Journalism and Global Development Studies

Nadia will be moving to NYC to start her full-time position as Digital Media Coordinator for R3. .

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*"Trust this process, follow your intuition, and say yes to opportunities that come your way! You'll never know where it could take you."*





## Melissa Gibson

**Major:** Global Health Studies

**Minors:** Art and Anthropology

Melissa will be looking at various IGS opportunities after graduation.

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*"Go to campus events!"*

## Charlee Coker

**Major:** Global Health Studies

**Minor:** Anthropology

Charlee is being considered for the Peace Corp position of Community Health Support Agent in Senegal.

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*"Don't rush it. Take time to enjoy all the little moments."*



## Shanya McWhinney

**Major:** Global Health Studies

Shanya plans to take a gap year to continue her work as a Certified Pharmacy Technician at Walgreens Pharmacy. In the meantime, she will be preparing to join the Peace Corps in Guatemala in early January 2022.

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*"Your life is your story, and the adventure ahead of you is the journey to fulfill your own purpose and potential."*





# IGS Senior Dinner 2021

The IGS department recognized graduating global health and global development students with a celebratory senior dinner on March 15th, 2021.





**Congratulations**  
*Class of 2021*



# EDITORIAL BOARD



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**Dr. Chinekwu Obidoa, Faculty Advisor**

**& To**

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& Ms. Shipley for their continued support**