

# *The Global Quarter*

## 2019-2020 Annual Report



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## *Building Lasting Communities of Learning*

by Sebastian Rivera

This year the Global Quarter (GQ) blossomed as a Living-Learning Community (LLC) at the University of Redlands. Overall, the GQ was able to merge the Residence Life and Housing (RLH) motto of "Building lasting communities of learning" into everything we did. Our team also incorporated Dr. Trevino's concept of "inclusive excellence" into our workflow by re-imagining many of our tasks, meetings, and relationships. It was essential for me as the leader of this team to incorporate leadership and identity development for my staff members this year. By investing time and effort into my team of Community Assistants (CAs), we were able to excel and provide a living-learning experience that was unparalleled on campus.

I incorporated and taught my staff to operate from a position of love, respect, and compassion. We did this by maintaining regular communication, providing professional development and critical self-reflection while having fun. I focused on developing core CA-competencies at the individual level, while also developing a group identity. My GQ CA's did an outstanding job of holding their residents accountable while actively building a community that we are all proud of.

Enjoy the next six pages, they will showcase the highlights of our community for the Academic Year 2019-2020.





# *Global Quarter Events*

Social events are a cornerstone of the residential experience in a Living-Learning Community because they provide the opportunity to engage in learning outside of the classroom in fun, relaxing, and creative ways. This year our team decided early on to support one-another and committed to attending each other's hall events. In doing so, we created a cohesion that our residents were able to sense and engage with. It was common to have 15-40 residents attend our social events. Popular events from this year included: Reina's Ping-Pong Tournament, Elijah's International Film Series, Ryley's Nerf Gun War and Community Clean-up, Cynthia's Face-masks and Relaxation Hour, and Jaiden's Horror Film Screening. The GQ's programming efforts were recognized by the department this year because we were awarded the Program of the Year for our Sukiyaki-Party. Way to go with programming and events GQ Staff!



Our events were a cornerstone of the Global Quarter and the Community that we created this year.





# Staff Development Days

*"Staff development days have personally been some of the greatest highlights of this year. Not only did they allow me to have fun with our staff, it played an integral role in building connection and trust within our now tight-knit team"*  
- Reina Mitsuda

RD Sebastian Rivera focused on leadership and personal identity development and incorporating Chicano culture rooted in the concept of extended family to create a team of Community Assistants (CAs) that values respect, love, compassion, and trust. I incorporated these values on during our three Staff Development Days. Our team incorporated a collectivist mentality that gives room for each person to grow as individuals while also focusing on our unified goal of "building lasting communities of learning". In order to promote collective thought team brainstorming sessions, and group activities were regularly incorporated in staff meetings, gatherings, and texts.

Three Staff Development Days were a part of the GQ's CA curriculum. The idea was simple - bring your team together, do an educational leadership activity, and eat good food. In doing this we created a bonded, worked on ourselves individually, shared what we learned about ourselves collectively, and created a cohesive team of individuals and leaders.

**Staff Development Day 1:** The Getty Center & Porto's Bakery, Los Angeles, CA

**Staff Development Day 2:** Chicano & Balboa Parks and Korean Food, San Diego, CA

**Staff Development Day 3:** Newport Beach & The Source, Orange County, CA





# Global Quarter California Excursions

This year Residence Life and Housing (RLH) offered a new opportunity to engage with our international student community known as California Excursions. Global Quarter (GQ) community members who were also international students were invited to participate in this pilot program. These unique culturally immersive experiences invited international students to visit local landmarks in Southern California. This pilot program utilized funds primarily from the Office of International Student Scholars (OISS) and had Resident Directors leading the local excursions. California Excursions are an example of Academic and Student Affairs working together in order to help our international students find a sense of belonging at the U of R. During academic year 2019-2020, two GQ California Excursions were open to international students.

**California Excursion 1:** Newport Beach & Mitsuwa Marketplace,  
Newport Beach, CA

**California Excursion 2:** Palm Springs Aerial Tram, Art Museum, & Downtown,  
Palm Springs, CA



*"It is difficult to travel by myself because of the lack of transportation, but the GQ trips offered me a chance to explore picturesque scenery from the beach to snowy mountains, while talking with friends. All of them became souvenirs to bring home to my country."*

*-Mai Ban*

*"As an international exchange student I rely heavily on public transport and ride shares which can be costly and not time efficient. Being able to participate in GQ trips gave me a sense of independence and allowed me to explore amazing places that i wouldn't have otherwise been able to travel to."*

*-Daisy Walker*





# *FYS, Clubs & Organizations In The Global Quarter*

The GQ community thrived during the 2019-2020 year with the help of First-Year-Seminar Professors and multiple student groups meeting and utilizing our community spaces. Multiple FYSs were housed in the Global Quarter, which added to the robust LLC that the GQ provided. Research has shown that by building bridges between Academic and Student Affairs, our residents have the opportunity to engage in deep and meaningful learning that is applied outside of the classroom setting.

## **The Global Quarter Hosts:**

Professor **Walter Hutchins**, FYS - Pinstriped Communists: Business, China & College 101

Professor **Pani Chakrapani**, FYS - Incredible India: Land of Many Cultures

Professor **Lawry Finsen**, FYS - Beyond the Killing Fields: Encounter Cambodia

Professor **Hongwei Lu**, FYS - Contemplation of Nature in East Asian Traditions

Professor **Steve Wuhs**, Program - International Students Program

Professor **Susan Goldstein**, Class - Abroad Re-entry Class

**Redlands International Student Association (RISA)**

**Dudes Understanding Diversity and Ending Stereotypes (DUDES)**

**Asian Students Association (ASA)**





# Lead Community Assistants

Daniela Jurado and Reina Mitsuda were the first Lead Community Assistants at the University of Redlands. Both women were selected to become Lead CAs in their respective communities, Daniela in Merriam Hall & Reina in North Hall, in preparation for RD Sebastian's daughter's arrival during the Summer 2019. Due to unforeseeable health circumstances with Olive Rivera, RD Sebastian was out of the office more than what was expected during the 2019-2020 year.

Fortunately, Daniela and Reina took the lead and kept the team together by hosting weekly staff meetings, community meetings, and mentored their peers in weekly 1-1 meet-ups. Both women were massively influential in the success of the GQ this year. Daniela and Reina helped RD Sebastian to create a leadership and self-development curriculum for the GQ CAs that we utilized during our Staff Development Days.



*"Our team's success was due to the commitment and care that these two outstanding women, Daniela and Reina, gave to their peers and our community. Thank you both for an incredible year!"*

*-Sebastian Rivera*



# *Looking Forward to Next Year*



## **Some things to look forward to during Academic Year 20-21:**

- RD Supervising two Living Learning Communities  
Williams Hall (First-Year Experience) & The Global Quarter
- A Formalized Community Member Key Policy
- More collaborations in the Global Quarter with the Office of International Students and Scholars
  - California Excursions
  - International Student Advisory Board
- Enhancing the FYS and Living-Learning Experience
  - Encouraging FYS professors to utilize the common space in Merriam and in North Hall more often
  - Attempting to merge FYS coursework with RA event planning via film screenings and events
- Utilizing budgets from Academic Partners
  - Enhancing collaboration between Academic and Student Affairs.

