GLOBAL CLASSROOM IMPACT REPORT & SUMMARY

Global Scholars Fellowship Program Cohort 5

a descriptive analysis of GLI’s virtual fellowship over Summer 2021

The Global Livingston Institute

Prepared by:
Tom Karrel | Director of Academic Partnerships, GLI
Rebecca Rawson | Academic Programs Coordinator, GLI
ABOUT GLOBAL LIVINGSTON INSTITUTE (GLI)
The Global Livingston Institute (GLI) is an education and research-based institute that works with students and community leaders to educate, change the dialogue surrounding sustainable development, and create empowering jobs. Since its founding in 2009, the GLI has recruited motivated students and leaders in the US and East Africa to work together to reframe how we approach sustainable development and improve communities globally.

The framework of GLI is based on the mantra “Listen. Think. Act.” This is emblematic of the organization’s goal to move away from the mentality that involves trying to “fix” Africa and instead move towards a better understanding of and ability to listen to communities before proposing solutions.

More on the GLI can be found here in our “About Us” video.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
In the following report, you will find an overview of the Global Scholars Fellowship Program (GSFP) and GLI’s experience navigating the virtual learning space with students from the US and East Africa. Over the course of the summer, GLI hosted 63 students virtually in two fellowship cohorts, educating them on a broad range of opportunities in the field of international development, hosting dozens of guest speakers and conversations, and engaging students in real-world research projects. The fellows were college-age students and adults from 31 different universities/organizations, 19 US states, and 4 countries. GLI aims to make GSFP accessible to students from all backgrounds, and provided partial and full scholarships to dozens of participants this summer.

GSFP is a five-week intensive and rigorous academic program for students (undergraduate & graduate), recent graduates and professionals. The program is designed for students who want to build their international experience as well as bolster their understanding of community development in both local and international contexts. While the program was fully virtual for the summer of 2020, it is nonetheless highly interactive and tailored to the cohorts of student fellows.
The fellows participated in several virtual sessions each week, hearing from community development leaders from the US, Uganda, Rwanda and other countries to learn about their work and perspectives on the field. Fellows also completed group-based research projects focused on real-world questions pertaining to Ugandan community development, with their work published on GLI’s Research Library and used to inform the strategies and future work of GLI and its partner organizations. Some of the thematic research areas included early childhood education, environmental sustainability, ecotourism, public health, music, women’s empowerment, gender-based violence and cultural exchange.

Surveys were also taken at the start and end of the fellowship. The GSFP found that over the course of the first cohort, there were some large shifts in the knowledge and attitudes in the fellows. These surveys, further laid out in the “Impact of GSFP | Data Analysis” section of this report.

Students are given the opportunity to apply for independent study credits through their school/university. GLI also offers support for students in the midst of completing an internship or capstone project. Participants in the GSFP are asked to pay a program fee which covers all lectures, curriculum, mentoring, and additional program-related support. However, scholarships are made available to the fellows.

With special attention granted to the fact that this is a program that would otherwise be in-person, the GLI staff members are mindful of communicating with fellows and making it clear that they are present as resources and mentors even after their fellowship has concluded.

We had 12 participants representing 8 different countries in our Cohort 5: Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Uganda, and the United States.
PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

Ashley Wakeling

“My time at GSFP was impactful and life changing. I learned about different cultures and communities, it truly helped to round my education. I got to meet and interact with people from all over the globe - making lifelong connections that will help me with future jobs and even friendships. GSFP also allowed me to get more insight on my future career goals and even speak with people who work in those fields. I highly recommend the program.”

Alekhya Reddy

“GSFP has been a great virtual immersive experience that helped build my network. I enjoyed the weekly development discussions due to the informal nature of the session and the ability to share our own opinions, thoughts, and perspectives while listening to others and reflecting.”

Coco Lee

“In these 5 weeks of GSFP, I feel so connected with all these brilliant people around the globe even on Zoom space. The most heartwarming moment during the fellowship must be one of the fellows in the call asking whether I am fine since I was sneezing so hard. Although it is just a tiny act, it melted my heart. I have never expected a fellow from roughly 8.5 thousand kilometres away would send me such a loving message. I remembered the timid and shy faces in the first session and the brightly smiling faces in the last session. The bonding among us was getting stronger after each week and we all became more candid in giving comments. I am glad to have developed connections with professionals in different sectors as well as fellows from different countries, which broadened my views and exposure to East Africa. That's why I particularly enjoyed the weekly discussion session where all of us can talk about our takeaways from that week, together with our plans, our updates, and our chit chatting. I love the time that we discussed Swahili and we really had lots of fun. I am honoured to learn Swahili from native speakers that probably I cannot find any Swahili classes in Hong Kong. Once again, asante sana!”
Matthew Willis
“...I was drawn to the field of community development out of a desire to leave a positive impression on the world through hands-on work. As part of the GSFP, I was able to collaborate and network with many similarly motivated professionals. The conversations I’ve had throughout these five weeks have given me a much clearer sense of how I might embark upon this path following my education.”

STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS
Over the course of the two fellowship cohorts, 63 fellows conducted group-based research projects related to core questions and problems addressed by GLI and its East African partner community. Some of the thematic areas researched included early childhood education, sustainability, ecotourism, public health, music, women’s empowerment, gender-based violence and cultural exchange.

All research project deliverables created by Global Scholars Fellows can be found published in GLI’s Online Research Library here.

Descriptions of the student-led research projects conducted by GLI fellows:
- Mobile health (mHealth) has become increasingly popular around the world as a means of providing innovative healthcare. It has the potential of lowering barriers to healthcare, such as transportation, patient referral, and access to information. The allure of such services has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to mHealth's ability to connect patients to medical service providers during lockdowns. Yet despite its promising upside, mHealth is still in its infancy and faces challenges. In areas without reliable access to the internet, does mHealth increase disparities in access to health? How can we ensure such innovations actually address the needs of the populations they serve, rather than create more problems? GLI seeks to answer these questions so we can potentially harness the potential of mHealth in our programs. This workgroup dove into the world of mobile health, critically analyzing past solutions to health problems around the world through the lens of sustainability, efficacy, and acceptability.
- During the COVID-19 Pandemic, thousands of schools and organizations around the globe scrambled to pivot their programs from in-person to virtual opportunities; in particular, programs focused on international travel and cross-cultural exchange. After doing more than a decade of this work, GLI has seen
firsthand the impact cultural exchange can have through its “Global Classroom” programs. Out of GLI programs have grown innovative ideas, new programs, increased empathy and awareness, businesses, and more. As one of these organizations that launched more virtual programming in 2020/2021, GLI is now trying to determine how best to prioritize their virtual vs. in-person academic program opportunities in 2022. The ultimate goal of this project was to present a report to GLI staff, board, and other stakeholders evaluating this topic.

FELLOWS PRESENTING GROUP RESEARCH (SCREENSHOTS)

IMPACT OF GSFP | DATA ANALYSIS

- For all Likert Scale questions, the following scale is used (x-axis on graphs):
  1 - Strongly agree, 2 - Agree, 3 - Somewhat agree, 4 - Neither agree nor disagree, 5 - Somewhat disagree, 6 - Disagree, 7 - Strongly disagree
Pre-Program

I am aware of influential leaders/experts in international development.
15 responses

Post-Program

I am aware of influential leaders/experts in international development.
8 responses
I have a network of international experts and leaders that I could connect with to build my experience in international development.

15 responses

Pre-Program

Post-Program

I have a network of international experts and leaders that I could connect with to build my experience in international development.

8 responses
I understand what it means to engage in underserved and hard-to-reach communities through international community development efforts.

**Pre-Program**

15 responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Post-Program**

8 responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GSFP is a five-week program centered around numerous aspects of local and international community development, using Uganda and Rwanda as geographical focus areas. GSFP is centered around GLI's motto of “Listen. Think. Act.”, and pushed students to think critically about existing practices in development, and how to prioritize building strong relationships and community buy-in before implementing programs.
Each week, fellows have four group sessions with a guest speaker/facilitator leading a conversation or lecture on a given topic in community development. Throughout the fellowship, students conduct their own research in smaller groups with a GLI staff member as their supervisor. Research groups give research presentations both in Week 3 and Week 5 to an audience including their fellow GSFP fellows and GLI’s partners, board members and other colleagues. The **Weekly Themes of GSFP** are as follows:

- **Week I:** “Introduction to International Development”
- **Week II:** “LISTEN”
- **Week III:** “THINK”
- **Week IV:** “ACT”
- **Week V:** “Pulling It All Together”

### GUEST SPEAKERS & FACILITATORS

- Aaron Kirunda | Founder & CEO, Enjuba
- Agnes Igoye | Uganda Deputy National Coordinator (Prevention in Trafficking in Persons) / Commitment Mentor, Clinton Global Initiative U
- Apollo Kibirige | Founder, Clear Yo Mind
- Emmanuel Oumo | Community Partnerships Manager, GLI
- James Tumusiime | Country Director, Reach a Hand Uganda
- Jamie Van Leeuwen | Founder & CEO, GLI
- Monica LaBiche Brown | Executive Director, Africa Development Promise
- Nasser Mukwaya | Founder & Manager, Kampala City Trekkers / Logistics Coordinator, GLI
- Phil Dimon | Foreign Service Officer (Diplomat), US Government / Spokesperson at US Mission in Uganda
- Rebecca Rawson | Academic Programs Coordinator, GLI
- Rumbi Gumbie | Program Manager (Research & Development), GLI
- Saran “S-Wrap” Thompson | Artist & Spoken Word Poet, S-Wrap
- Sheila Gabeya | Communications & Events Manager, GLI
- Tom Karrel | Director of Academic Partnerships, GLI