An interdisciplinary approach to the complex factors influencing health and disease locally and around the world
What an eventful year it has been! The academic year 2019-2020 marks the 4th year that the Global Health Studies Program has offered a major. This year we have all been tested by a pandemic that has upended our lives in unprecedented ways. But Global Health Studies students, faculty, and staff are resilient, and what we learn together, and what we do here in our Program and beyond is more relevant than ever. As people who are passionate about global health, students, faculty, and staff in our Program have worked together with our local and global partners to adjust and learn from this experience in ways that are creative, hopeful, and exciting. I invite you to look back at some of these great accomplishments.

Mariola Espinosa, PhD

Director (2017-2020)
Global Health Studies Program
Division of Interdisciplinary Programs
The University of Iowa
GHS STUDENT STATS

115 GHS MAJORS

82 GHS MINORS

40% OF GHS MAJORS IDENTIFY AS STUDENTS OF COLOR

5 GHS CERTIFICATES
3 GHS students received Stanley Awards for International Research (Ecuador, Chile, India), before travel was canceled due to Covid-19.

Research conducted by GHS majors, Naomi Marroquin (“Records Immigrant Stories”) and Emma Sillman (“Surveys Medication Trends”) was chosen for the 2020 U Iowa Dare to Discover campaign.

Meghan Lindell, BS Global Health Studies
Dr. Theodore Powers, Faculty Mentor

To examine the political and social factors of HIV/AIDS in Uganda and how American aid in the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) influenced Uganda’s HIV/AIDS work. This project reviews existing literature on PEPFAR’s funding regulations and the role of funders in the rapid acceleration of aid and systematic trends in disbursement. I developed a framework of the PEPFAR influence on Uganda’s HIV/AIDS work through a prevention framework centered around sexual behavior changes, each following a conservative worldview influenced by Christianity. Adhering to this conservative trend created a complex HIV/AIDS prevention and promotion scheme and altered social perspectives on sex and sexuality.

Brief History
The first AIDS cases can be traced to the violence and societal upheaval during the Tanzanian occupation that Ugandan President Idi Amin’s military was known to rape and drop. Leading to the population and a social environment wherein sex become an increasingly important currency for marriage and job prospects, PEPFAR’s funding influenced sexuality and created a discourse dedicated to AIDS work. Studies during the 1990s showed a decline in HIV prevalence, prompting international attention and criticism. During this time, Uganda’s AIDS Commission summarized HIV/AIDS work and generated messages to encourage reducing the number of sexual partners and sexual contacts. Prior to PEPFAR, Uganda had increased its budgets and programs for HIV/AIDS prevention, and the number of people receiving treatment increased. The funds received from the PEPFAR were used to support programs and projects, including community-based programs and educational campaigns. However, Uganda’s HIV/AIDS work continued to be influenced by international actors. In 2009, President Barack Obama announced PEPFAR. The following year, Uganda received $237 million from PEPFAR.

PEPFAR
The funding program PEPFAR set aside billions of dollars for HIV/AIDS work in target countries, Uganda being one of them. Uganda also modified the framework for what programs PEPFAR supports, namely the ABC prevention approach:

A: Abstinence until marriage
B: Be faithful
C: Condoms

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GHS seniors Devonte Chism (L) and Shemaa Dafalla (R) received 2020 CDE Student Leadership Awards.

Led by GHS major Lindsay Cobb, U Iowa student org ImmUNITY won the 2020 “Outstanding Contribution to the Greater Community” award.

GHS major Charlotte Lenkaitis served as the Executive Director of the Food Pantry at Iowa which won the 2020 “Outstanding Philanthropic Contribution to the UI Campus by a Student Org” award.
GHS STUDENT
LOCAL/GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

For the 6th year of the GHS internship program with the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement in Mysuru, India, 3 GHS students completed virtual internships in summer 2020.

GHS major, Kayla Carter (L), works for food justice with Grow Johnson County. GHS senior, Ashley Morrow (C), was recognized during International Education Week 2019 for her commitment to international education on campus and abroad. GHS alum, Lucas Fagre (R), won a Fulbright Award to Bulgaria & Romania.
Dr. Sokhieng Au (GHS Lecturer) created a new GHS Capstone course, “Case Studies in Global Health Inequities: Advocacy and Assessment in Humanitarian Crises.”

Dr. Carly Nichols (GHS/GSS) shared her expertise on the effects of Covid-19 on local and global food systems for the U Iowa Obermann Center’s “Pandemic Insights.”

Dr. Waltraud Maierhofer (GHS/GRMN) was awarded Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank funding to support her research on the representation of people with disabilities in German writing and film.

Dr. Alberto Ortiz Díaz (GHS/HIST) published “Pathologizing the Jíbaro: Mental and Social Health in Puerto Rico’s Oso Blanco (1930s – 1950s),” in The Americas (Volume 77, Issue 3, July 2020).
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