

Global Citizenship Annual Report 2012/13

The Global Citizenship Committee (GCC) conducted its standard business during the Spring 2013 semester. This included a review of proposals for Global Citizenship mini-grants, both for Spring 2013, and a separate round covering the 2013/14 academic year. The GCC also reviewed proposals made by applicants to the college's second summer travel-study program in Beijing.

After guiding the selection, in Fall 2012, of the 2013/14 annual theme, "Peace and Security", the GCC chose Helena Cobban's *The Moral Architecture of World Peace* (Univ. of Virginia Press, 2000) as its common read in support of that theme. Cobban is a veteran global-affairs correspondent and the recent founder of a boutique publisher focused on global peace and social justice studies, "Just World Books". In *Moral Architecture*, Cobban tells the story of eight Nobel Peace Prize recipients, who participated in a landmark conference at the University of Virginia in 1998. While global geopolitics have shifted significantly in the subsequent fifteen years, the stories and the insights of the likes of Desmond Tutu, Aung San Suu Kyi, Rigoberta Menchu, and the Dalai Lama continue to resonate with today's world. Covering a diverse range of issues, personalities, and geographic locales, the book is ideal for provoking discussion on peace-and-conflict issues among our students and our colleagues.

For the fourth consecutive year, the hallmark event of the Spring 2013 semester was the annual student research symposium, held on the last Friday of classes before final exams. The event attracted entries from a wide and growing variety of academic disciplines: 90 entries in total, spread across six categories, including for the first time, an academic poster session. This last addition reflects the event's evolution toward a hybrid showcase/symposium that is designed to engage students in an advanced, interactive display of their research, and other original works investigating or celebrating global citizenship. The event retains a competition element too, per its original incarnation as a "tournament", and the SMC Foundation again generously provided a total prize pool of \$2500, which was distributed among 33 award-winning entries. The GCC continues to refine the design of this event, with an eye toward facilitating its continuing growth and accommodating as many different programs as possible, in the most appropriate ways.

Beyond conducting its standard business, the GCC discussed a pair of initiatives during the Spring 2013 semester. The first of these initiatives involved revisiting an older idea and refining it for presentation to the Academic Senate's Executive Committee, where it was enthusiastically received. With an eye toward encouraging deeper student involvement in global citizenship, and to cultivating a sense of "membership" among interested students, the GCC developed a proposal for a new designation of globally oriented academic achievement and service. Specifically, the GCC is proposing that students be invited to earn the designation of "Global Scholar-Citizen" by completing a checklist of requirements. These would include:

- coursework in a non-native language
- additional coursework in areas satisfying the college's existing Global Citizenship A.A. degree requirement
- participation in a study-abroad program or recognized service-intensive activity
- completion of a faculty-directed capstone project

Informed by similar designations offered by other colleges, such as UC-Irvine's Global Leadership Certificate and the Howard CC and Baltimore County Maryland CC's Global Distinction programs, the goal of the GCC's proposal is to create a designation that would be stringent enough to be a true mark of achievement, but also not so challenging that only a small handful of students reasonably could achieve it in any given year. By the end of the semester, the GCC had settled upon a consensus final draft of the designation's specifications, but the proposal remains stalled by questions concerning its most appropriate administrative form. Should a new Global Scholar-Citizen designation be acknowledged as a formal transcript notation comparable to conventional academic honors—which was the GCC's initial vision—or would another non-transcripted recognition be more appropriate?

The second area of discussion was the development of a method for assessing SMC's work in global citizenship. After reviewing a variety of existing models, such as the Braskamp Global Perspective Inventory, the EdSteps Global Competence Matrix, and Oxfam's Curriculum for Global Citizenship, the GCC developed a set of preliminary guidelines for a pilot assessment effort. These guidelines include the following:

- **What to assess?** Using a Development Evaluation approach, the GCC recommends assessing a combination of knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors. The last of these concepts is especially of interest, as we seek evidence of demonstrated *actions* of global citizenship, including relevant experiences and acquired skills.
- **Whom to assess?** The primary focus would be SMC students, but all campus groups, faculty, and staff included would be of interest. Ideally, large enough samples would be studied to allow meaningful comparison across multiple statistical cohorts—the usual categories such as age, sex, and ethnicity, but also groups defined by specific SMC Global Citizenship initiatives. For example, is there a demonstrated difference in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors between students who have taken a Global Studies course at SMC, or who have participated in study abroad, and the rest of the student body?
- **How to assess?** The assessments likely would be built around self-reporting surveys, but a core task for the GCC will be to work with Institutional Research to identify any already available data that might be useful.
- **When to assess?** To facilitate the comparisons suggested above, we would seek to conduct surveys both before and after significant global experiences, such as study abroad and professional development abroad. Otherwise, periodic surveys ideally would be conducted at an interval that allows meaningful comparisons over time (biannually? triennially?). In the long run, some mechanism for tracking SMC alumni also would be desirable.

Fall 2013 Global Council Activities

Professional Development: Four Santa Monica College faculty attended the *Global Conflict and Peacebuilding Seminar* on October 12-15, 2013 at Montgomery College, Maryland. The seminar brought together academic scholars from across the country, joined with representatives of national and international political and humanitarian organizations to explore global issues of conflict, peace, war, nonviolence, and humanitarian assistance amongst others. The seminar emphasis was on developing proactive strategies of peace-building as a means to create a culture of peace and democracy for all peoples. Field trips to the Washington DC offices of the Red Cross and the Organization of American States (OAS) culminated the workshop. The SMC faculty who participated in this seminar will present this information to the college at large in a workshop at the 2014 Spring Flex Day.

Study Abroad: SMC continues to move in the direction of the development of study abroad experiences for participants that provide academically rigorous courses complemented by an immersion experience with the host culture and community through service learning and/or other strategies that may promote this goal.

Through the partnership with the Beijing Center for Chinese Studies for the professional development program, a comprehensive yet cost effective program for Beijing, China was developed for a Summer 2013 program. Though the minimum number of 25 students was not met, the program did generate lots of interest, with a total of 18 students signed up with deposits. The program was two weeks at SMC followed by a four-week study abroad program in China, with study at The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies, and the historical cities of Beijing, Xi'an, and Wudang. The Beijing program was to combine a solid background in the history and culture of China, as students would experience firsthand the places studied in the Chinese History and Music Appreciation courses offered with planned visits to the Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven, and Wudang Mountain. Students were to develop a deep understanding of China's history and its people, thus gaining a richer sense of the growth and development of one of the world's largest and most dynamic nations. In the process, examining the way that China is viewed by the western world, exploring the crossroads of where East meets West, and to build bridges between our two cultures. Students who successfully completed the program would earn 6 units of SMC credit that is IGETC/UC Transferrable.

The plan is to offer the Beijing program in Summer 2014 (pending faculty applications) with a lower minimum number of participants (18) and a program of three weeks at SMC, three weeks in China. Other programs are under development, following the annual center model, in South Africa (Winter 2015) and Istanbul, Turkey (Summer 2014). These programs are pending the selection of faculty leaders that will take place in mid-January 2014.

Additional enhancements during the 2012/13 year for study abroad:

- Meetings with foreign air carriers (China Air, South African Airlines, and Turkish Airlines) to discuss group and discounted student fares.
- Comprehensive Travel & Health Insurance policies negotiated with iNext for study abroad and professional development programs abroad for faculty and staff.
- Establishment of Study Abroad scholarships from the District Global Citizenship fund with a scholarship committee consisting of representation from past participants of the Beijing Professional Development Program and the SMC Financial Aid office.
- Site visits to prospective host institutions for a program in Istanbul, Turkey.
- Informational sessions, SMC web promotion, SMC closed circuit TV ads, and announcements on Corsair Connect to generate interest for upcoming programs for 2014/15.

In addition to the development of the Study Abroad Centers in China, South Africa, and Turkey, the Global Council, along with International Education discussed the idea of shorter term (e.g. one week) in-broad and Spring Break study abroad experiences. Many SMC students due to cost constraints, or work and family commitments, are unable to participate in the traditional 2-4 week SMC study abroad programs, and therefore, these shorter term programs may be able to provide Global Citizenship experiences to this section of the SMC student body. These shorter term experiences would complement the longer term study abroad experiences designed for the three international study abroad centers.

To this end, in the Fall 2013 semester, SMC faculty initiated discussions with representatives from Montgomery College to develop a short term in-broad experience capitalizing on Montgomery College's connections with political and humanitarian organizations in the Washington DC area (including, but not limited to, the International Red Cross, the US Institute of Peace, and the Organization of American States). Other possible shorter term in-broad experiences include opportunities such as field studies courses in the biological and earth sciences (e.g. marine biology, botany, California geography, etc.). Given that SMC is a Hispanic serving institution with a Hispanic student population of over 30 %, and the historical interdependence of California with Latin America, shorter term Spring Break study abroad programs in Latin America should be explored. Initiation of these shorter term in-broad and Spring Break study abroad programs could begin in early 2015.

Increasing Student Participation with Global Citizenship: One of the important goals of the Global Council for the 2013/14 academic year is an emphasis on increasing student participation with Global Citizenship. In the Fall 2013 semester, Global Council members reached out to multiple Associated Student Clubs and spoke at on the ground SMC classes to recruit students to take a more active campus role in Global Citizenship. As a result, the Associated Students Board of Directors appointed a student AS representative to attend Global Council meetings. Other SMC students have agreed to become part of the planning and implementation committee for the annual Spring Global Citizenship Research Symposium.

SMC Global Citizenship highlights also include a number of annual events from 2012/13 such as:

- SMC faculty Bill Selby and Nancy Grass-Hemmert, in partnership with the IEC, tour several of the Los Angeles region's distinctive ethnic neighborhoods every fall and spring for the popular LA Cultural Tour. Domestic students, F-1 international students, SMC staff and faculty are invited to attend this trip. Participants learn about the city's historical richness and get a chance to taste the cultural diversity by stopping in to some of the city's best eateries.
- International Education collaborates with the Global Council and departments across campus for the annual International Education Week - an intercultural celebration, including Global Citizenship Day, which works toward one of our major goals for the year—increased student awareness and involvement in global citizenship while enjoying international foods, music, dance performances, and campus departments.
- Global Film Initiative offers a wide array of films each year as part of their “Global Lens” series. In 2013, Santa Monica College purchased the 2012 and 2013 series as part of the Global Citizenship initiative, to add to the 2010 and 2011 series already on file at the Library. Each set contains ten films, from ten different countries, featuring stories made by filmmakers from a variety of backgrounds. The “Global Lens” series encourages the SMC community to view cinema from around the globe, learning more about different regions, cultures, and customs in the process. These films are screened as part of the Film Studies courses taught by Josh Kanin, and are kept on file at the Library.
- Professional Development Abroad: SMC & The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies: Over the course of two summers, 32 SMC faculty and staff participated in the SMC Beijing Center for Chinese Studies Professional Development program to introduce the lands and peoples of China to our largest F-1 population at SMC, highlighting present-day issues and trends against the region's deep historical backdrop. Participants attended lectures and seminars led by the Beijing Center faculty, explored Beijing and its surroundings, and took a weekend trip to Inner Mongolia (2012) and Xi'an (2013).

Upon their return, participants will contribute to the Global Citizenship initiative equipped with a greater understanding of our trans-Pacific neighbors and the challenges and opportunities presented by China's rising profile on the global stage. This program also supports infusion of global perspectives into SMC's curriculum and campus life, as well as plans for an annual study abroad center in Beijing. Recipients of the professional development programs are required to do a follow-on project including a group presentation during flex day; faculty developing a module within their General Education course to bring global perspectives into curriculum, and classified staff to participate in campus Global Citizenship activities such as International Education Week, serve on the Research Symposium, or assist with the District Global Citizenship scholarship for study abroad.

- Global Citizenship Mini Grants - Funding supported a variety of selected projects (speakers, field trips, professional development, campus events, and more), which centered on a variety of topics related to the idea or practice of global citizenship. This includes, but is not limited to the annual academic-year Global Citizenship theme. Some examples of funded proposals included:

Salvador Carrasco (Media): An Evening with Film Director Christine Choy

- As part of the "An Evening with a Distinguished Filmmaker" series and as the closing event of the Global Citizenship's International Week, excerpts were shown from Ms. Choy's latest film, which deals with the hardships that immigrant workers from Shanghai experience in Beijing, followed by a Q & A session in HSS 165.

Aned Muniz (Modern Languages): "The More Languages You Speak, The More Lives You Will Lead"

- A short film showcasing the expansive diversity of languages and cultures at Santa Monica College. The project was made to illustrate this through interviewing students in their native languages, and having them speak about their personal history with language(s) and their cultural backgrounds.

Sri Susilowati and Raquel Ramirez (Dance): "Asociacion Nacional de Grupos Folkloricos"

- A trip to visit the "Asociacion Nacional de Grupos Folkloricos" conference. This project allowed "Global Motion" dance students to work with dance troupes from Mexico and learn the history, meaning, and differences between dance cultures around the world.

Genevieve Bertone (Sustainability): Plastics and the Environment Panel

- A panel on plastics and its effect on the environment during Sustainability Week. This project included hosting a variety of speakers from different backgrounds (from activists to scientists) to speak about the effects of plastics and pollution on the ecosystem.