



## *Reaction to Muslim Women: Intersectional Identities Panel*

By Sameerah Wahab

beyond the campus with the intention of creating citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Honors' goal is to graduate citizens with critical skill-sets such as an openness to intellectual inquiry and collaborative learning. While taking Honors World Literature with Professor Roseanne Alvarez, I was challenged to make these connections, and ultimately became inspired. This inspiration was found through the cumulative research I had been conducting on bias. I became interested in stereotypes and stigmas as they organically originate in the world. This interest came as I began to see a pattern of stereotypes and distorted perceptions universally appearing in every text/culture that we had studied.

As I am a Muslim-American, and have family and friends who are of Arabic/Middle Eastern heritage, I began to research Edward Said's Orientalism, which focused on Westerners' perceptions of Asians. However, I applied Said's concept of Orientalism in a way that related to most cultural biases. The culmination of my research was in the idea that biases originate as we subconsciously create binary ideas about a group of individuals based on many influential aspects of our lives. This reductionist thinking creates a distorted lens through which we view the world around us, and can result in our living in a state of ignorance.

This very idea is what created the *Intersectional Identities* panel, as all of us are always at any moment situated somewhere in the intersection of two or more groups. Our panel focused on the intersections of the identities of and biases projected onto Muslim Woman, and it was these distorted images which we sought to debunk.

As a panelist, I believe I accomplished my personal goal, which is synonymous with Phi Theta Kappa's main annual goal of "Breaking the Bias." I believe that our distorted perceptions can only be broken with education. Therefore, if people become not only aware of the biases that they hold, but consciously aware of the mental schemas and patterns that they might create towards different groups, then the way they view the world around them will change. Of course, I am not by any means saying that the world will change overnight. But if just one of the students who came to the event is changed, then it was successful, as all change needs is one person. Breaking the bias is a ripple effect.

Overall, I feel as if the panel was a success. After the event, students thanked us for the work we had done, and some even expressed the feeling that they had learned something about Muslim culture and about the harm of biases and stereotypes. I don't think I could have asked for a better turnout, and for me, the panel was a great place for my research to finally come together. I am ecstatic that this synthesizing was able to happen in front of the student body at Brookdale.

Sameerah is a second-year Biology/Health Sciences student

The Honors Program's mission statement at Brookdale Community College includes foundational values that challenge students to connect their studies to the world



Left to right, Sahar Ishtiaque Ullah (playwrite and English professor), Sameerah Wahab (Brookdale student), Dr. Nadine Housri (radiation oncologist and entrepreneur), and Kelsey Maki (panel moderator)

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*The Global Citizenship Awards**By Kelsey Maki*

During the course of an academic year, there are many valuable events sponsored and co-sponsored by the International Education Center. But of these events, my favorite remains the "Global Citizenship Project" (GCP) Awards ceremony. At this year's ceremony, the Award winners (both curricular and co-curricular) delivered short speeches to raise awareness about issues ranging from the Armenian Genocide to Operation Smile; from drone strikes in Pakistan to global trends in breastfeeding; from anti-Muslim rhetoric to the global impact of economic changes in China, and the list goes on. Awardees were recognized for their work in English, Reading, Women and Gender Studies, Journalism, Speech Communication, History, Psychology, Nursing, and Chemistry. Clearly the diversity of disciplines and topics is evidence of the viability and vibrancy of a liberal education at Brookdale.

What made the ceremony a success was the support of the Brookdale community. The IEC would like to thank Dr. David Stout, who attended the ceremony, and Dr. Maureen Murphy who delivered the opening remarks. Most importantly, we are grateful for the tireless enthusiasm of our GCP faculty and those who nominated their students this year: Professors Roseanne Alvarez, Barbara Baron, Tom Berke, Floresta Jones, Terry Konn, Howard Miller, Debbie Mura, Donna Pope, Raj Wesley, and Ashely Zampogna-Krug.

Professor Barbara Barrella received a special honor for staging a successful event in Long Branch, which featured a screening of the film *¡Salud!* and a discussion of the healthcare system in Cuba. IEC's Lucy Wadych-Ketley was nominated for her great work with the International Student Association, and Professor Shahin Pirzad was honored as an advisor to Phi Theta Kappa and for his role in the powerful "Break the Bias" series. Those in attendance were no doubt inspired by Rosemary Kochman's work with the Brookdale Volunteer Connection, and the work of student groups such as TIN, UndocuAlly, and, of course, S4GC (Students for Global Citizenship).

It was deeply moving to see the mission of the GCP reflected in so many diverse ways—from the curricular, where students seek information about people and places once considered "foreign," expanding their sphere of compassion in the process; to the co-curricular, where people work to ameliorate pressing social problems and perceptions—all of the honorees were very deserving of their awards.

*Kelsey is an English Instructor and the Faculty Liaison to the IEC*

*The Meaning of a GCP Award**By Robin Hooley*

As I learned the news of receiving a Global Citizenship Award, I can openly admit that tears did fill my eyes. I am a second-semester, 31-year-old, first-time college student. To say I was fearful of taking on college while having a full-time job and being a full-time mom to a toddler is an understatement. When assigned a research paper for one of my classes, I jumped at the chance to research and write about a global issue. After being part of a local group of mothers that help other mothers cope with hardship, I wanted to understand what problems affect other parts of the world. I came across a statistic about depression in India and I decided to wholeheartedly pursue this topic.

Before beginning this semester, my goal was simply to do well in my classes; I had no idea that one of my projects would be worthy of an award. This award, while such an accomplishment for me personally, means the world to those who look up to me. I am the oldest of seven siblings, three of whom are currently in high school. This award helps me show my son, my nephews, and my nieces that anything is possible. Hard work, the desire to learn, and the desire to be a better person will never go unnoticed. I am so grateful to receive this award and, most importantly, I am grateful to be an example to others in my family.

*Robin is a first-year student interested in Nursing*

Below, Robin accepting her GCP Award.



## *Global Citizenship Distinction*

By Terry Konn

Starting in the Fall 2016 semester, the Global Citizenship Distinction (GCD)

Initiative will admit its

first cohort of students. As an academic enrichment program open to all degree-seeking students at Brookdale Community College, the GCD Initiative is a recognition program for those who engage in globally focused curricular and co-curricular activities as they work toward graduation. The purpose of the Initiative is to provide a global framework to prepare students for both academic and professional endeavors while encouraging them to become global citizens.

Students enrolled in the Global Citizenship Initiative will 1) complete a variety of globally focused courses (minimum of 12 credits as part of their degree); 2) participate in a variety of curricular and co-curricular events and experiences that will broaden the students' exposure to diverse cultures, global issues, and intellectual debate; and 3) document their experiences through an e-portfolio. Students who have successfully achieved the requirements will be recognized for their exceptional efforts upon graduation with "Global Citizenship Distinction."

GCD will help students enhance their intercultural competencies; identify the importance of diversity, civic engagement, and social responsibility in a global framework; and enrich students' problem-solving skills by awakening a global perspective through GCD's curricular and co-curricular activities. Most significantly, students will communicate what they have learned to colleges and potential employers via the completion of the e-portfolio.

Students who are interested in the Initiative can go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GCDReg> to register. The registration form will notify the GCD Initiative of the student's intent to complete the requirements and work toward achieving distinction. Once a student registers, he/she will be notified of an orientation workshop and will meet with a Global Citizenship Initiative coordinator to discuss program requirements and opportunities to fulfill said requirements. Registered participants become members of a Global Citizenship Initiative cohort.

In an effort to be inclusive, the Global Citizenship Distinction Initiative is open to all degree seeking students, regardless of GPA. Each year, students will join a cohort who will work to fulfill the requirements for Global Citizenship Distinction. Upon program completion, each student will receive an award showing "Global Citizenship Distinction" and he/she will receive special recognition upon graduation with a green sash with the GCD logo.

Please share information about the GCD Initiative with incoming and existing students, parents, friends, fellow students, and anyone else who might be interested. We are so excited about being able to offer such a rich and engaging experience to our students. For additional information, please contact Dr. Terry Konn at [tkonn@Brookdalecc.edu](mailto:tkonn@Brookdalecc.edu).

*Terry is a Professor in Radiologic Technology, a Fulbright Scholar, and the GCD Initiative Coordinator*



# Are you interested in Global Citizenship Distinction?

Contact Terry Konn at  
[tkonn@brookdalecc.edu](mailto:tkonn@brookdalecc.edu)  
to find out all about it.

### *Global Awareness in the Reading Classroom*

By Barbara Barrella

Over the past couple of years I have incorporated global issues into my Reading curriculum to help my students become more aware of the differences and similarities among people and events, both in the past and in the present. Awareness helps my students to build their background knowledge so that they may become more caring and more socially responsible people. Current events have helped me with this endeavor: things like the 20-year remembrance of the Rwanda Genocide, the 100-year anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and The Big Read's novel by Julia Alvarez (which focused on the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic during the 1950s and 60s) – all of these were events that I used to enhance my curriculum. In my classes, students use their active reading skills to read, research, and learn about these events.

This year, using the theme of Global Health, I worked with one of my students to organize a program in Long Branch during International Education Week. Together we organized a "Lunch and Learn" that was attended by about 100 students, faculty, and administrators. The captivating movie *¡Salud!* was shown, and a Cuban lunch from a local Long Branch restaurant was served. *¡Salud!* examines human values and health issues that affect everyone around the world. It focuses on "the 28,000 Cuban health professionals serving in 68 countries, and explores the hearts and minds of international medical students in Cuba." It is part of a movement for global health with the goal of making healthcare everyone's birthright. After the movie, students discussed their views on Cuba's implementation of this healthcare program. We used the theme of the movie as a starting point for their research on health issues affecting people around the world. Using reading strategies, my students analyzed research articles on global health issues and presented their powerful findings.

Barbara is an Assistant Professor in Reading



Left to right, Jake Pinelli, Ashley Shea, Zack Rynar, Mike Rybarczyk, Jeff Villapiano, and Alex Nichols; the TIN project team restoring Brookdale's Rain Garden

### *TIN: The Innovation Network*

By Katherine Edward

TIN projects engage students in valuable co-curricular and service-learning activities to develop the teamwork and collaboration skills so highly prized in the 21st century job market. TIN projects are uniquely about students; what the teams do and how they do it is up to them. Faculty facilitate learning experiences and guide project teams.

Students may receive credit from the courses that send them to participate in TIN. They may also

- earn Service Learning recognition;
- qualify for a Global Citizenship Project Award;
- earn points toward Global Citizenship Distinction.

Here are our current projects:

**The Greening of Brookdale:** This is the second phase of TIN's "The Greening of Brookdale," which is meant to make Brookdale as environmentally friendly as possible. The TIN pilot project team worked on a campus Rain Gardens project so successfully that their student leadership is mentoring the current "Greening" project teams who are studying solar energy and composting/gasification. The fall semester team is investigating the economics and feasibility of deploying solar technology at Brookdale.

**Habitat for Humanity's ReStore:** Monmouth County Habitat branch raises funds to support its projects by operating a furniture store in Freehold. This fall, a TIN project team helped the store raise money to support several Habitat projects, one of which is a Neighborhood Rejuvenation (NR) project in Long Branch. Brookdale students can apply what they have learned in their coursework to lay out the store, develop an interactive website to market the store, track sales, analyze the effectiveness of marketing campaigns, and post personal artwork for sale.

**Habitat for Humanity Neighborhood Rejuvenation:** Habitat's NR project brings TIN into a carefully chosen neighborhood in Long Branch. What's exciting about NR is that Habitat is partnering with many different community agencies and aid groups, which lets Brookdale students apply and learn concepts in a board array of disciplines. These include: working with government offices, analyzing crime statistics, assisting in healthcare and social services delivery, designing residence interiors, tutoring students, speaking before community agencies, and researching and writing grants.

For further information about TIN, contact Debbie Mura at [dmura@brookdalecc.edu](mailto:dmura@brookdalecc.edu) or the TIN project at [TIN@brookdalecc.edu](mailto:TIN@brookdalecc.edu).

Katherine is the Director of Educational Services Outcome Assessment



## *CVA Gallery's International Exhibition*

*By Marie Mabey*

In a wonderfully written article about the recent exhibition, "Diversity and International Education at Brookdale (January 20 – March 20)," Keith Heumiller of College Relations wrote, "The [Center for Visual Arts \(CVA\) gallery](#) has officially been transformed into a global arts village, featuring clothing, traditional masks, musical instruments and other cultural artifacts representing nearly every continent on Earth." He cited two of our major contributors to the exhibition, Professors Terry Konn and Rajkumari Wesley, who graciously lent dozens of wonderful and unusual artifacts to our show. A third major contributor was Lucy Wadych-Ketley who lent about 20 items from Poland, Ecuador, Tibet, and Latvia.

The exhibit also included slide projections showcasing some of the 140 international students currently studying at Brookdale, as well as a "Faces of Brookdale" installation by BCC student photographer Mark DeYoung.

"As a photographer I love being able to work with different people, different personalities and different cultures. So this show is perfect for me," said DeYoung. "As an artist you can really relate to the idea that different is good. Different colors, different settings, different inspirations... Without diversity, it would be kind of like being forced to shoot in black and white."

When next we assemble such an assortment of international artifacts, we will contact the newest cohort of ESL students. Perhaps they would welcome the opportunity to showcase items they have recently brought with them to the US. We would certainly enjoy installing such treasures in the CVA Gallery.

*Marie is a Professor in Art*



Assistant psychology professor Rajkumari Wesley was one of many to contribute to the new "International Education" exhibit in the CVA Gallery, which opened January 28.

## Join the Global Citizenship Project!

Contact Kelsey Maki at [kmaki@brookdalecc.edu](mailto:kmaki@brookdalecc.edu)

or come to our next meeting:

**Tuesday, June 14th  
12 pm in MAC 110**



Above, UndocuAlly accepting their GCP Awards.

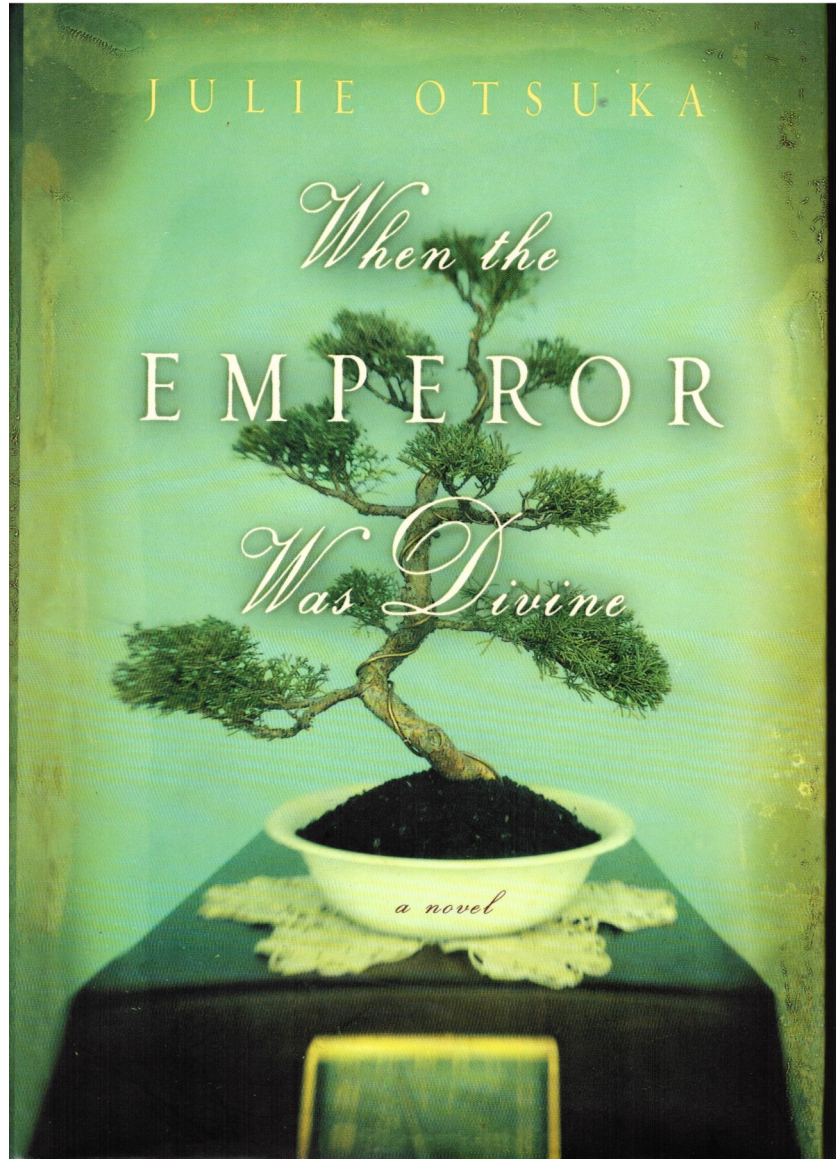
*"When the Emperor Was Divine"**By Debbie Mura*

You can expect to see the novel "When the Emperor Was Divine" in the hands of Brookdale students and faculty now through the end of 2016-2017 academic year. In the upcoming semesters, students, faculty and community members around Monmouth County will be engaging in discussions, viewing art, and attending lectures all linked to Julie Otsuka's powerful tale about life in America's Japanese internment camps during World War II.

A dedicated panel of Brookdale faculty and administrators have been working for about a year on planning the next BIG Read, and this year's Scholars Day will feature additional information about the events.

Although Chhange (the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education) did not receive a grant from the BIG Read, there will still be ample campus events sponsored by Chhange, giving faculty who adopt the text a chance to incorporate additional lessons into their coursework. The novel, which is already being used in some classes, can be integrated throughout many subjects. Thus far, several faculty members have committed to using this text in the Fall of 2016.

So, please, pick up a copy of "When the Emperor Was Divine" and consider integrating it into your coursework next year. The novel tackles the issues of fear and prejudice head-on; those themes remain incredibly poignant in today's world and will clearly have a huge effect on the upcoming presidential election.



*Debbie is an Associate Professor in Journalism*

GCP will be planning a "Great, Global Read" for Spring 2017. We are currently in the process of choosing a text that relates to the theme of global health. Please email your suggestions to Kelsey Maki ([kmaki@brookdalecc.edu](mailto:kmaki@brookdalecc.edu)) or come to our next GCP meeting on June 14th @ 12 pm in MAC 110.





In 2016, we had more award winners and a larger audience than we've ever seen before at the GCP Awards.  
**Congratulations to all of the winners!**



*International Education Center News**By Janice Thomas*

The mission of the International Education Center is to foster a learning community in which students, faculty, staff, and community members develop global literacy and cultivate cultural awareness and empathy. We accomplish this by providing support services to international students, offering study-away programs, and sponsoring or co-sponsoring cultural programs. In 2016, we had another great year of programming as has been highlighted in this year's Global Citizenship Newsletters; to this end, I would like to highlight some trends and activities related to international students and our study abroad programs.

**International Students**

We experienced a 22% increase in the number of international student applications processed for Fall 2015 compared to Fall 2014. This resulted in a significant growth in the number of students on F-1 visas. Enrollments grew from 108 students in Fall 2014 to 140 students in Fall 2015, a 29% increase. The top sending countries of enrolled students are Brazil, China, India, Vietnam, and Russia. However, Vietnam is the top sending country among our newly enrolled students. The increase in Vietnamese students is tied to family connections with the Vietnamese community in the southwestern part of Monmouth County. Along with the exciting increase to our international student population, there has been a significant increase in the scope of regulatory compliance and reporting to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). For example, DHS is now tracking personal emails and phone numbers as well as detailed employer information for students engaged in pre and post-graduation practical training opportunities. In spite of the increased workload, we remain committed to supporting international students' acculturation and success. Our students, in turn, continue to be generous in sharing their culture with the campus community as evidenced by another successful International Festival held on April 7.

**Study Abroad**

We are pleased to offer two faculty-led programs to new destinations this summer. Jess Levine, Patty Blaser, and Tony Blaser are taking a group of students and community members to Cuba. This group will be visiting Cuba just eighteen months after President Obama announced plans to normalize relations with the island nation. It's an ideal time to travel to Cuba, as visitors will witness the country on the cusp of significant changes, many of which are already underway. Our second new destination is Iceland. Meg Natter and Carl Calendar will lead participants in exploring geysers, caves, and waterfalls, as the group bears witness to the beautiful landscape of Iceland.

The IEC continues to support students in their quests for scholarships. Our latest winners are two students from Brookdale's Equal Opportunity Fund (EOF) program who have won scholarships to study abroad in Tokyo, Japan. Mario Melendez and Steven Hertel are both recipients of the Freeman Asia Award and the Gilman Scholarship. Additionally, the Elaine Baran Scholarship Committee has awarded a total of five study abroad scholarships this year. Recipients are Annette Giacobbe – Japan, Ekaterine Kobaladze – Iceland, Mario Melendez – Japan, Demetra Tampasis – Greece, and Alissa Zambelli – Iceland. We congratulate these students as they embark on the academic journey of a lifetime.

*Janice is the Director of the International Education Center*

**FIND US ON THE WEB: [BROOKDALECC.EDU/CURRENT-STUDENTS/INTERNATIONAL/GLOBAL-CITIZENSHIP/](http://BROOKDALECC.EDU/CURRENT-STUDENTS/INTERNATIONAL/GLOBAL-CITIZENSHIP/)**

**The Global Citizenship Project (GCP) brings faculty interested in addressing global (and local) issues together. It's a place where we can share ideas, seek solutions, and effect positive change in the classroom and beyond.**

**GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PROJECT NEWSLETTER**

**EDITOR, HOWARD MILLER**

**CONTRIBUTORS: SAMEERAH WAHAB, KELSEY MAKI, ROBIN HOOLEY, TERRY KONN, BARBARA BARRELLA, KATHERINE EDWARD, MARIE MABER, DEBBIE MURA, AND JANICE THOMAS.**