



GCP Awards Ceremony on Zoom April 29th, 2021 at 7 PM

Sponsored by Global Citizenship Project and Student Life & Activities

Free and open to the public

Ceremony Proceedings

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I. Welcome Message

Professor Kelsey Maki, Faculty Liaison to the International Education Center

The first GCP Awards ceremony took place in Spring 2011 and continued, uninterrupted, on an annual basis until COVID-19 prevented us from gathering in 2020. If anything underscores the importance of citizenship and care for others, surely it's a global pandemic. The interconnectedness of people from all parts of the world is best illustrated by the current caveats of epidemiologists and virologists regarding vaccination inequities: "No one is safe until everyone is safe." Tonight, as we resume our GCP Awards ceremony on Zoom, we do so with an awareness of the catastrophic loss that so many have endured during the last year. Yet, we also gather with a sense of hope, having recently witnessed global movements against racism and inequality. During this difficult year, we have witnessed the strength and generosity of our fellow citizens, particularly those whom we now correctly refer to as "essential workers." All around us, there have been recent examples of commitment, compassion, and activism. Tonight's ceremony—in honor of our students, our founders, and our outstanding employees—gives us one more reason to be optimistic, as this year's honorees embody the meaning of citizenship and give us hope for a better future.

II. Global Citizenship Project Founders Recognition

The Global Citizenship Project: A History (by Terry Konn)

In 2007, professors Tom Berke (Chemistry) and Terry Konn (Radiology) often met in the hallway to discuss ways that they could engage students in global issues. At this time, Professor Konn was involved in the Students for Peace club and was working individually with students who were interested in becoming activists. Professor Berke was developing ideas on how to integrate positive action into coursework. Professor Howard Miller (Speech Communication) joined these early conversations, as he responded to Professor Berke's call "to save the world." By 2009, these discussions coalesced around the concept of global citizenship. In 2010, Professors Berke, Konn, and Miller shared their ideas with Dr. Janice Thomas (IEC Director) and the Global Citizenship Project was born.

In 2011, Professor Konn initiated a special recognition ceremony for students who were actively engaged in global learning—inside and outside the classroom. In addition to creating a ceremony to honor globally minded Brookdalians, the GCP committee met to discuss ways that all educators could engage their students in global learning. Early GCP meetings were casual and followed a roundtable discussion format. Debbie Mura (Journalism) and Phyllis Schafer (Business) were the first supporters of GCP, a committee that produced many fruitful offshoots. In 2015, Professors Berke and Mura officially initiated The Innovation Network (TIN) to provide a platform for students to work directly on global issues by collaboratively engaging in service learning. Additionally, Professor Konn established the Global Citizenship Distinction (GCD) Initiative for students. GCD students who met specific criteria and engaged in globally focused coursework and co-curricular activities were now able to earn Global Citizenship Distinction at graduation, which is the highest GCP honor for our students. Today, the Global Citizenship Project has been embraced by many employees at Brookdale, as GCP offers over thirty globally enhanced classes representing all academic institutes.

Students have always been at the center of GCP's mission, as the Project has provided them with many unique educational opportunities. In the past, the Students for Global Citizenship (S4GC Club) has visited the United Nations, Ellis Island, and the Statue of Liberty. Over the years, the club has engaged in many worthwhile causes. They've held a color run to raise funds to build a well for a large village in Sierra Leone that supplies clean water to 40,000 people. They also raised funds to purchase goats and cows for impoverished families in Rwanda. In fact, some members of S4GC even went to Rwanda to deliver the animals to the families in person. Our S4GC students have helped educators in Ghana obtain and utilize an online learning management system for teaching. They have also traveled to Rwanda to learn about immigration, global health initiatives, and education. Brookdale students have sponsored and participated in numerous educational workshops on sweatshop labor, the need for clean water,

the obstacles to education for girls, global health, and immigration. Additionally, TIN students have continued to engage in local, service-based learning projects. In this capacity, they have created a rain garden and are currently working on a butterfly garden on campus—in addition to their many off-campus projects, some of which address food insecurity in the community. Together, students in both S4GC and TIN have worked on numerous in-class assignments and attended a plethora of co-curricular activities that have broadened their perspectives on the world, which remains the central mission of the Global Citizenship Project at Brookdale.

Founders of Brookdale's Global Citizenship Project

Dr. Tom Berke

Tom Berke earned a PhD in Physical Chemistry from CUNY and a Masters in Mathematics and Computer Science from Stevens. During his fifty years at Brookdale, he has continued to innovate—from creating a committee to utilize computers in our classes in 1970, to establishing and running Educational Computing, to assessing and fully revising the course and exams until Chemistry was voted a favorite non-Nursing course by Nursing students. In addition to co-founding GCP and TIN, Dr. Berke has been involved in many other initiatives and is the proud recipient of a Barringer Award.

Dr. Terry Konn

Terry Konn, PhD, teaches medical imaging and public health in the Health Sciences Institute. She is a two-time Fulbright Scholar and has spent considerable time teaching and volunteering in Rwanda and Ghana. Dr. Konn has offered numerous lectures and workshops on the Rwanda Genocide and other global topics—at Brookdale and beyond. Since 2004, she has worked individually with students interested in local service projects and has taken students and community members to Africa to perform community service.

Professor Howard Miller

A graduate of Emerson College and co-author of *Public Speaking in the Semiosphere: Creating a Meaningful Experience for Your Audience*, Howard Miller has taught at Brookdale since 2004 and currently serves as a professor in the Speech Communication Department. His dedication to international education beyond the Global Citizenship Project includes a three-year term as the International Education Center's Faculty Liaison and learning experiences with students in Lisbon, Prague, London, and Buenos Aires.

III. Global Citizenship Distinction (GCD) Graduates

Students who are interested in becoming GCD Scholars should contact the GCD coordinator, Dr. Raj Wesley: rwesley@brookdalecc.edu or nwesley@brookdalecc.edu

Jamie Alison Kloor

Jamie possesses abundant energy and drive. She has always been passionate about learning and living in diverse cultures and currently resides in Singapore, where she is raising her young son. Her motto is “grow the seeds of change, shine the light of love, and create an inclusive community for all.” Jamie has shared her gifts of kindness, empathy, and dedication with many people. She worked tirelessly for the homeless in New York City by getting them safely to shelters where they could receive care, food, and medical aid. Furthermore, she continues to work to create environmental awareness in the youth as a life coach and mentor. Jamie also owns a certified non-profit in the US called Guiding Light Missions. In addition to advocating for migrant workers and women’s rights, Jamie organizes the collection and distribution of funds and food for those in dire need in Singapore. She recently collected donations of food, clothing, and money for her volunteer mission trip to Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Finally, Jamie is an avid activist for animal rights. It is to her credit that even as she is involved in all of this, she still found the motivation to complete a challenging academic curriculum of globally enhanced courses.

Maeve Maguire

Maeve is passionate about making a difference in the world. A brilliant student with a high desire for perfection, she took the time and effort to enrich all of her coursework to meet the requirements of the Global Citizenship Distinction Initiative. Her papers and projects reflect her deep thought and analysis of themes that have a profound impact in the world. Her analysis of biodiversity and regenerative farming, as well as her commentary on philosophical issues of personhood, are mere samples of her intuitive thinking and the way in which she questions the role of every individual in a fast-changing world. Maeve is also actively engaged in several activities at Brookdale and has played a pivotal role in Brookdale’s Monarch Butterfly Meditative Garden and the Neptune Community Garden. She finds peace and meaning in a cross-cultural orientation to yoga and is currently undergoing intense training to become an instructor. She rightly believes that one of the best ways to learn the art and science of yoga is through cultural immersion. All of these experiences make Maeve ready to share her valuable understanding in an effort to make our world a better place.

Robert Mennella

Robert is a veteran with two decades of military and federal law experience. During his service, Robert lived overseas for seven years, working with host nations on group projects. He has been recognized individually for his work by both the Spanish and Japanese militaries for joint operations, as well as coalition endeavors with Germany, Britain, and France. Returning to

Brookdale to further his education, Robert has excelled in every class he has taken, several of which were globally enhanced. At Brookdale, Robert has emerged as a natural mentor who has a friendly nature and enjoys helping others. He has led multiple clubs in his time here at the College: The Biology Club, The Physics and Astronomy Club, and the Engineering Students Association. He is also a member of the Students for Global Citizenship, The Innovation Network, the Mathematics Club, and Phi Theta Kappa. Most notably, Robert served as the President and the Vice President of the National Student Veterans of America. He has volunteered for campus cleanups, beach sweeps, and Habitat for Humanity. He's also a recipient of the NASA Fellowship, where he conducted a research project titled "Engineered Shorelines and their Role in Coastal Resiliency." For all of this work—and more—Robert is an exceptional example of a global citizen.

IV. Global Read Awardees

Selected by Dr. Raj Wesley, Coordinator of Global Citizenship Distinction Initiative
<https://www.brookdalecc.edu/international/global-citizenship/global-read/>

Belinda Asamoah

A newcomer to the GCD Cohort in Spring 2021, Belinda has already made an impression. She is a vibrant student ready to take on the world. Coming from Ghana and being cross-cultural herself, she has firsthand experience of how the issues that people face in different parts of the world are not very different at all: be it climate change, poverty, health access, or educational issues. Aiming towards a dual major in Nursing and English, Belinda radiates her passion for both fields. Her brilliant rendering of the short story "The Grandchild Paradox" at the recent Global Read event has earned her a GCP Award.

Taiphane Orange

Taiphane started with the GCD Program in Fall 2020 and has maintained her commitment since joining. She is majoring in Political Science and International Relations, and often demonstrates an impressive understanding of abstract concepts. In an effort to enrich her knowledge in her fields of study, Taiphane has taken globally enhanced courses and is excelling in them. Hailing from Haiti and recently immigrating to the US, she has a deep understanding of global problems and feels the urgency to play a role in shaping the future. Her participation in the Global Read event where she offered reflections on the short story "Standing Still" was insightful.

V. Curricular Award Winners

Selected by Professor Barbara Barrella, Reading

Alyssa Hendrickson

Alyssa's research on "The Environmental Issues with Fast Fashion" culminated in a great presentation on PowerPoint. Everyone in the class learned so much about this topic from Alyssa. After defining the term "fast fashion," she talked about the many negative effects to the environment caused by the industry. For example, Alyssa wrote, "During manufacturing and transport, more greenhouse gasses are emitted than all international flights and maritime shipping combined! Not to mention, the fashion industry is the second biggest consumer of water and produces 20% of our wastewater."

Serena Pugliese

Serena's research examined the "Threats to Our Oceans" and focused on the negative impacts these threats have on the ecosystem and biodiversity. In her presentation, she explained the negative effects of human activities like overfishing and the littering of plastic debris. She also included information about how groups of people are trying to protect our oceans and ways we can help solve the problem. Serena states, "There are many things society can do to reverse these damages. For instance, regulating how much fishing should be allowed and keeping our beaches and oceans clean by recycling or creating less waste."

Selected by Professor Harry Compton, Environmental Science

Brendan Cusack

Brendan is a political science major who deserves this award, in part, because his military service in the Middle East allowed him to bring insightful perspective to discussions around political motivation of the US and other nations that may engage in environmentally destructive practices. Brendan seeks to understand both sides of the story regarding the farmers' ongoing revolts in both India and Yemen, a point that demonstrates his unbiased approach to global issues. In his work, he has also considered the way in which drought contributed to the unrest that led to the Syrian Civil War.

Margie Quintana

A native of the Philippines, Margie moved to the US with her younger sister when she was eight years old while her parents remained in the Philippines. She brings a unique perspective to class discussions when she shares stories of poverty in her native province. Tourists who visit the Philippines are never exposed to the true nature and frightening enormity of poverty in her home country. I appreciate her efforts to make the other students more socially and environmentally aware.

Selected by Professor Annmarie Hughes, Fashion

Gianna Chiaccheri

Gianna has been an excellent student throughout the Fashion Program and continues to engage in her assignments with dedication. Her out-of-the-box approach to her final project on the reselling of thrifted clothing was amazing to witness, as Gianna's knowledge and insight really struck a chord with other students and served as a catalyst to further conversation. I was very impressed with Gianna's work.

Selected by Professor Jess LeVine, History

Angela Giamos

Angela's writings—in her short papers and in her essays for exams—show an amazing depth of understanding of global history. Angela is especially skilled in writing on the subject of women, as she has shown an impressive ability in her comparative analysis, in which she has brought to light some really insightful ideas.

Selected by Professor Kelsey Maki, English

Jessica Dickenman

During our Zoom classes, Jessica has consistently distinguished herself as a thoughtful and engaged student. As teachers, we're always grateful to have a student who possesses the ability to spark discussions, to make others feel comfortable and respected, all of which make the overall educational experience better for everyone. Jessica is that student. Her interpretation of the short story "Bajadas" was illuminating, as it highlighted the way in which our flawed immigration system harms the people who are migrating to the US in search of a better life and the border patrol agents who are tasked with apprehending and deporting them.

Brianna Rommeihs

Brianna strives for excellence and embraces every opportunity to learn. Her literary analysis of "Standing Still," a short story that imagines a future where Madagascar has been ravaged by climate change, was well-organized and insightful. In her essay, Brianna mounted a persuasive argument about how every facet of our lives will be impacted by climate change—from the food we eat, to the technology we use, to the way in which we treat each other. Most significantly, Brianna examined the way in which climate change and scarcity of resources exacerbates xenophobia and heightens interpersonal conflict.

Selected by Professor Elana Maloney, English

Kyle Harris

Kyle's global issues research paper entitled "Why Water Must Be Clean" was inspired by watching the documentary film *Living on One Dollar*. In it, filmmakers Chris Temple and Zach Ingrasci travel to rural Guatemala to experience living in a developing country. The scenes where Temple has to deal with the parasite giardia as a result of drinking unclean water led Kyle to explore the impact of water quality and accessibility within poor countries like Guatemala. Kyle's research is valuable in helping to understand the importance of accessibility to clean water as a factor in economic and social development.

Selected by Dr. Ashley Zampogna-Krug, History

Zachary Medeiros

Zachary created a podcast that focused on the European colonization of Uganda and its aftermath. His skills in research and storytelling resulted in an engaging podcast that thoroughly examined and connected Uganda's post-independence tribulations with European colonization. For the final project of the semester, Zachary produced a Tour Builder presentation that traced the spread of communism worldwide and examined the impact, both positive and negative, of communism in six different locations.

VI. Co-Curricular Award Winners

Dreamers+

Cristian Aparicio
Yaritza Ortega
Deysi Perez-Avila

Yaritza, Deysi, and Cristian demonstrated exceptional co-curricular engagement during a very difficult year. They succeeded in expanding club membership, supporting their peers with time management "how-to" videos, organizing a butterfly project, in which handcrafted butterflies were placed on a fence surrounding the White House in an artistic reminder that our leaders must support citizenship for all. The group also advocated for Brookdale DACA recipients to study abroad in 2022. We acknowledge their hard work and dedication to Dreamers+ with this GCP Award.

The Current

Heather O'Donnell

Heather O'Donnell has distinguished herself as a global citizen through her entire body of work for *The Current* over the last few semesters. As the "Features" editor, Heather has used her time and her platform to write meaningful stories that shine a light on global issues. Her recent editorial takes a multi-dimensional look at the rise in incidents of violence and hate against Asian Americans and, more importantly, calls for Brookdalians to help bring this to an end. In other articles, Heather has written about climate change and human rights, taken multiple global looks at the pandemic, and carefully examined women's rights issues.

International Student Association (ISA)

Iana Dunaevskaia
Bouchra El Charabaty
Jean Guerdy Paul
Gosia Sikora

In fall and spring of the 2020-2021 academic year, ISA met every week. At the meetings, Gosia, Jean, Iana, and Bouchra assumed leadership roles as the ISA got to know each other, shared cultural presentations, and planned an International Festival and other activities. The highlight of the year was the International Festival, which was a very successful event in which ISA collaborated with The Asia Society and the Dreamers+ clubs. During this event, students took us on a wonderful trip around the world, sharing their presentations and personal stories about England, Poland, Lebanon, South Dakota, South Korea, Mexico, Sicily, and Italy. Each presentation was unique, personal, and authentic. Their presentations made everyone want to travel. Despite the difficulties of remote meetings, ISA successfully created a community atmosphere and upheld shared values of diversity and globalism.

The Innovation Network

Jeanette Falotico
Maeve Maguire
Gillian Omotoso

Three student leaders from The Innovation Network (TIN) have truly distinguished themselves as global citizens over the past two semesters: advocating for, planning, fundraising, and ultimately building and planting a monarch butterfly waystation and meditation garden. Maeve, Jeanette, and Gillian have been nominated for a well-earned GCP Award for their work on the TIN Butterfly Garden, which has been a herculean task. They managed to raise funds, cut through red tape, and get permission to make the garden possible. They planned and ordered materials to make sure assembly would be straightforward, using many wood planks to build

the structure of the raised horseshoe-shaped garden. They arranged to have students from other clubs volunteer to make it all happen. These tireless innovators are being honored for bringing campus and community attention to two global crises, the effect of climate change on monarch butterflies and mental health awareness around the globe and specifically on our campus. The dramatic decline of monarch butterflies, which travel over four generations between Mexico and Canada, can be reversed over time by planting waystations along their migration path. TIN spent more than a year working on this project which so clearly puts into practice the concept of thinking globally and acting locally. The garden will not only help boost the butterfly population, it will also provide a place for solace and meditation for Brookdale students, staff, and community members. A science and math major from Middletown, Maeve Maguire has served as TIN president this year, while Red Bank journalism major Jeanette Falotico served as vice president. Ocean Township resident and psychology major Gillian Omotoso acted as the team's resident artist and most dedicated member. The trio's impact will be felt throughout the community for years to come.

Women in Learning and Leadership

Amanda Zelevansky

Yeimi Hernandez

Linda Truong

Megan Friedman

Leah Van Der Heever

WILL: Women in Learning and Leadership exists because incredible and inspiring advocates make it so. Amanda, Yeimi, Linda, Megan, and Leah have redefined student engagement in our time of digital culture and remote learning. In the Fall of 2020, these students collaborated to put together one of the first student-led BCC webinars, "The Legacy of RBG." This event had over 80 attendees, and while Ruth Bader Ginsburg provided a framework for the discussion (her legacy and the impact of her work) the ways in which this work isn't "done" was at its center. The focus on the discussion in so many ways mirrors the mission of the WILL student organization and program: intersectional leadership and advocacy that's focused on social justice. This focus was witnessed again and again in their work on supporting the installation of the Brian Hanlon statue donation that now stands in the MAS main lobby as well as in the accompanying webinar in Spring 2021, "The Intersections of the 19th Amendment." Additionally, WILL leaders have worked on another important and timely event: "NJ Communities in Coalition: STOP AAPI Hate," an event which gathered together advocates, allies and student leaders to address anti-AAPI violence and hate in our communities. Amanda, Yeimi, Linda, Megan, and Leah's tireless advocacy, focus on intersectional social justice, and their persistence in the face of the challenges of a remote college experience all point to their merit of this recognition.

VII. Outstanding Educators

Professor Harry Compton

Harry Compton graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with an MFA in Regional Planning and worked as an environmental engineer and manager for 34 years at the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Since retiring from the EPA, he has dedicated his time to writing a memoir and educating the students of Brookdale about the environment and how we can help heal it. After a fruitful career traveling the world working on disaster response for the EPA, Professor Compton has become a GCP stalwart. During his relatively short time at Brookdale, Professor Compton has already made a major impact on GCP by hosting numerous environmentally themed events and consistently engaging his students in global issues. Brookdale is incredibly fortunate to now have Harry as a full-time faculty member in the Environmental Science Department.

Professor Elana Maloney

Elana Maloney has an MS Ed in English Education from Old Dominion University. She teaches in the English Department where she strives to foster empathy by including global themes and issues in all of her classes. Her work with design thinking was published in *EF Inspire* magazine. Professor Maloney has led students on six study abroad trips to five countries in Europe and Central and South America. She also regularly hosts GCP events and has been bringing globally minded coursework to students who take English classes at Brookdale for several decades. Professor Maloney demonstrates the educational knowledge and awareness of a seasoned professional while retaining the energy and optimism of a new teacher. She is a true inspiration to her students and her colleagues.

Professor Debbie Mura

Debbie Mura wears many hats at Brookdale and in the community. She is a professor in the Communication Media Department, where she currently teaches journalism, public relations and communication courses. She is the advisor to the student newspaper *The Current*, co-advisor to The Innovation Network (TIN), faculty liaison to The Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education, and the author of the young adult novel *Stronger Than the Storm*. Regardless of the course or activity, Debbie's focus is always on guiding students to become better global citizens. She has been with the GCP committee since the beginning and continues to be one of the most engaged, compassionate, and committed members of our team. Professor Mura's journalism students are always educated in the importance of honesty, truth-telling, and activism. She credits Brookdale's "life-changing" Global Citizenship Program for making her job so much easier!

VIII. Closing Message

Dr. Janice Thomas, Director of the International Education Center

On the occasion of the first Global Citizenship Distinction Awards ceremony in 2011, I wrote about the African concept of Ubuntu. Archbishop Desmond Tutu offers the following explanation, “In our country, we’ve got something called Ubuntu. We say a person is a person through other persons. I want you to be all you can be because that’s the only way that I can be all that I can be. I need you to be you, so that I can be me.” In essence, he’s saying that to be human is to be interconnected with one another. Anything that we do has an impact on the whole world. A central focus of the Global Citizenship Project (GCP) has been to bring awareness of global issues to encourage action to improve the world we live in. Tutu also said, “do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” We are grateful to each of our founders, Tom Berke, Howard Miller, and Terry Konn for “doing a little bit of good” when they created GCP. We are grateful for the immense support we have received from across the campus community: faculty, department chairs, deans, senior administrators, staff, and most importantly our students. Finally, we are indebted to Kelsey Maki, our faculty liaison for the last six years. Kelsey furthered our initial vision and ensured that all our students have the opportunity to learn and grow as global citizens, as she developed the criteria for globally enhanced classes and made these courses an integral part of Brookdale’s educational offerings. As we celebrate the accomplishments of honorees past and present, I am confident that the little bit of good done by each will eventually positively overwhelm the world.

