

Curated by Ashley Zampogna-Krug,
Faculty Liaison to the International
Education Center

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GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PROJECT NEWSLETTER

REFLECTIONS ON “THE PARADOXES AND PROMISES OF BELONGING: COMMUNITY, DEMOCRACY, UNIVER- SALITY, AND RIGHTS IN CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY,” A LECTURE AND GUIDED DISCUSSION

By William J. Ryan, Ph.D., Instructor, Languages and ESL Department

“It was a unique honor to present in the CVA Gallery space and engage the community in dialogue about how political theory and the arts intersect with our personal and collective experiences.”

Analyzing the theoretical and practical complexities of the concept of belonging through the lens of political philosophy, my lecture and guided discussion took place on December 12, 2022 in the Center for Visual Arts Gallery (CVA) at Brookdale Community College. The event formed part of Monmouth Arts’ Charles Sills Memorial Group Art Exhibit *Belonging*, which was curated by Professor of Art and CVA Gallery Coordinator Elisa Elorza. Brookdale students, faculty, staff, and other members of Monmouth County attended the event.

I structured my presentation around four notions relating to belonging—community, democracy, universality, and rights—, as theorized by three major contemporary philosophers: Roberto Esposito (1950-), Jacques Derrida (1930-2004), and Étienne Balibar (1942-). As a way to apply theoretical principles to concrete examples, I included two artistic interludes: the first focused on how changing conceptions of the self can be historically traced through the analysis of the form of Renaissance and Avant-Garde paintings; the second addressed the experiences of Heritage Language Learners in a spoken word poem composed by Puerto Rican artist Noel Quiñones. During the presentation, the audience discussed the philosophers’ ideas, works of art, and societal issues related to belonging.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Reflections and recaps of previous events
- Using the Global Read text in your class
- Students studying abroad
- A student shares her GCD experience
- Change is still here to offer faculty support
- The spring semester is packed with exciting global events!

PARADOXES AND PROMISES CONT.

At the start of the evening, I posed questions about the positive and potentially negative aspects of community. Our conversation led to the work of Italian philosopher Roberto Esposito (1950-), who understands community as governed by the obligations and duties of those who compose it; yet he also sees community as a gift to those who belong to it. Concurrently, his work addresses a contradiction at the heart of theorizations of community, by which community can have open and egalitarian forms, as well as negative and even destructive incarnations. In view of these matters, as evidenced in racist, sexist, xenophobic, and nationalist movements, we critiqued exclusionary ideologies that marginalize and subjugate certain groups in the construction of narrowly-defined conceptions of community.

These problems then propelled us to consider texts by French-Algerian philosopher Jacques Derrida (1930-2004). His conception of democracy as a unique form of political community is crucial for thinking through the complexities of this mode of governance. In a way analogous to how the protections of the body may turn against the body in autoimmune diseases, Derrida sees democracy as structurally “autoimmune,” by which key democratic values—such as the right of universal suffrage and freedom of expression—may have the potential to undermine or put an end to democracy. For example, a political party could be democratically elected and then formally abolish the right to vote, a process that could be understood as autoimmune. As we would consider at the close of the evening, the safeguarding and expansion of rights can be viewed as central to the egalitarian aspirations of diverse democratic movements and the institutions which they have inspired.

The last set of concerns revolved around the work of French theorist Étienne Balibar (1942-). His texts help us to examine how contemporary political tendencies may cause division by underscoring particular cultural, political, and social identities, instead of possible commonalities. In view of the ramifications of particularistic identity politics, Balibar dialectically assesses the paradoxes and promises of new modes of universalism. Despite critiques of universalistic thinking from some theoretical traditions, carefully framed formulations of universalism—which recognize the contradictions inherent to universalistic propositions—may offer ways to construct solidarities across communities as a counterbalance to some modes of politics that emphasize difference and particularity to the detriment of more expansive and open visions of political community.

In a way that complements his vision of universality, Balibar understands claims for equal rights—which are universalistic in their aims—as fundamental to the endeavors for liberty and equality that begin with the transatlantic revolutions of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. In this context, we addressed the principles articulated in the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen* (1789) during the French Revolution (1789-1799). Nevertheless, we pointed to two major contradictions. First, in view of the French Revolutionary motto of *Liberté, Égalité, and Fraternité*, we turned to Derrida’s critique of the political value of fraternity, which implies a metaphorical fellowship of imaginary brothers brought together by ideological bonds of kinship and nationality, in a way that leads to the practical and theoretical exclusion of women and the image of the sister from the political realm. Second, at the time of the revolution, France possessed Haiti as a colony that exploited the slave labor of African-descended communities. As such, it can be argued that the universalistic statements of equality and liberty enounced during the French Revolution would be embodied in the revolt of enslaved peoples against colonial rule in the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804), a world-historical event leading to the foundation of the sovereign nation of Haiti.

Such colonial legacies and contradictions are present in the poem “8 Confessions of My Tongue” (2016) by Afro-Boricua writer Noel Quiñones. Our analysis of this piece drew attention to forms of multigenerational trauma linked to the colonial disposessions of Indigenous and African communities in the Americas. The poem revolves around Quiñones’ painful experiences relating to language, race, and ethnicity: of Puerto Rican ancestry, he is fluent in English, yet he expresses a deep motivation to connect with his ancestors by learning Spanish. These experiences may be shared by other Heritage Learners of Spanish, who may have grown up in a home where Spanish was spoken, yet—because English is a primary language in many social contexts in the U.S.—, those individuals may have lost components of their proficiency in Spanish. Research on Heritage Language Education identifies a lack of homogeneity among Heritage Speakers: some may be proficient in both English and the Heritage Language; others may comprehend yet not speak the Heritage Language; and others may not have proficiency in the Heritage Language but may have a strong desire to belong to the communities that speak the language. Quiñones’ poem allowed us to foreground the need for empathy with Heritage Learners, individuals learning languages, and those who seek to connect with their ancestors’ cultures. Additionally, I noted that linguists and educators are at the vanguard of research and pedagogical approaches that support Heritage Learners, challenge forms of linguisticism, and advocate for rights to language and education.

PARADOXES AND PROMISES CONT.

These ideas culminated in a discussion of rights and their historical development. We started with traditions of natural rights vital to movements of emancipation in the late 18th and 19th centuries. For example, we read a fragment of a text by Angelina Grimké (1805-1879). Drawing on arguments for natural rights, her text articulates solidarities that bring together the Women's Rights and Anti-Slavery Movements. Shifting then to the 20th century, we reflected upon the United Nations' *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), a document which emerges from traditions of civil and human rights. In this context, we reflected upon the need to recall the universalism of the tenets of the U.N. *Declaration* in the 21st century. In this regard, I proposed ways to defend

and broaden the content and nature of rights (including environmental, cultural, and economic rights), to bring rights into new domains (beyond the nation-state and toward global forms, such as rights of asylum, movement, and transnational citizenship), and to expand rights for new subjects (not only for persons excluded from political participation and those who suffer due to their absence of rights, but also for non-human animals who suffer, comparably, because of a deprivation of rights, such as animals in factory farms). Rights exemplify the inclusion of and protection for historically marginalized groups, and provide the necessary foundations for social structures that promote equality, liberty, dignity, and civility.

My presentation sought to engage the community in a conversation that would complexify notions of belonging, provide philosophical tools to analyze past and present sociological conditions, and instill hope by framing egalitarian images of belonging for the future. The animating goals of my lecture and of my teaching practice involve demystifying and making accessible concepts in language, philosophy, and history, through the application of theoretical principles to concrete examples. As an educator, I hope to encourage dialogue in the co-construction of knowledge which opens up the likelihood that we can develop empathy to understand and appreciate the experiences of others.



Are you a faculty member interested in global learning?

Funding is available to faculty members who globally enhance classes that are not already designated as "CG" (cultural and global awareness) in the course catalog. To be eligible for funding, a class must (1) meet the minimum requirements (see below), (2) offer a short description on our website, (3) require students to complete a short assessment survey.

The minimum threshold for a globally enhanced class:

GCP considers a class globally enhanced if students spend at least six hours learning (via lectures, assignments, or self-directed inquiry) about geographical regions outside the US or considering issues that affect diverse populations in multiple locations (e.g., climate change, human trafficking, antibiotic-resistant bacteria, etc.). In these classes, students will share their learning with others after they complete a significant project or series of assignments.

To assist you in writing your description, GCP has created a template for globally enhanced classes. If you would like to add your class to this list, please email Ashley Zampogna-Krug (azampognakrug@brookdalecc.edu). To see our current list of globally enhanced classes please go to: <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/international/global-citizenship/globally-enhanced-classes/> There you can also learn more about the benefits of global enhancements and diversity in the classroom.

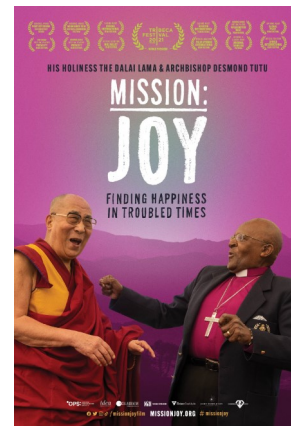
READY FOR THE GCP GLOBAL READ

By Ashley Zampogna-Krug, Associate Professor of History

During International Education Week, the Global Citizenship Project in conjunction with the International Education Center, Student Life & Activities, and the Wellness Center, hosted a virtual and in-person screening of *Mission Joy: Finding Happiness in Troubled Times*. The film documented what became the last time the Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama were together. Cameras captured footage of the two “mischievous brothers,” as Tutu’s daughter Mpho calls them, during a week in Dharmasala to celebrate the Dalai Lama’s 80th birthday. Their conversations formed the basis of *The Book of Joy*. The film took viewers through the turbulent history experienced by both leaders, the Dalai Lama’s exile from Tibet at the age of 23 and the Archbishop’s childhood in apartheid South Africa. Yet, much of the film is filled with laughter as the Archbishop and His Holiness took

turns taking humorous jabs at each other. I attended the in-person screening we held on November 16, facilitated by Angela Kariotis and Marlena Frank. In-between the audience laughter were poignant moments such as when the Archbishop exhibited sadness and perhaps even regret when discussing the death of his father or when the Dalai Lama commented to Desmond Tutu, “I think, at the time of my death, I will remember you.”

English Professor, Marc Bonagura, brought his class to the screening, which he described as a powerful event and noted that he received excellent feedback from his students. Some Brookdale folks who viewed the documentary virtually were kind enough to share the parts of the film that had the most impact on them. Here is what they had to say:



The part where his holiness the Dalai Lama, and Desmond Tutu talked about doing things for others, and how that brings true happiness. Forgetting about yourself completely, forgetting about your wants and your needs, and thinking about the person next to you, and how you can help them. That was something that I needed to hear.

How these two leaders had such a hardship and suffering throughout their life and how they're overcome those difficulties yet they're so joyful and happy. Loved both of their laughter!

The entire movie was wonderful. Learning more about Arch Tutu's life, seeing him when he was younger, documentary part added more depth to the Book of Joy. I also loved the warmth and friendship Dalai Lama and Arch. Tutu shared, their giggles, teasing, holding hands. Beautiful and rare friendship.

With that, we welcome all Brookdale employees and students to join us as we officially begin the GCP Global Read, *The Book of Joy*. Keep in mind, that faculty can integrate the text without assigning the entire book as a reading assignment, and the Bankier Library will serve as a useful resource by having copies of the text on reserve for both in-library and out-of-library use as well as creating a book display with complementary reading. I have created an interdisciplinary teaching guide that is organized by subject area. The guide includes quotes from the book as well as supportive articles, videos, podcasts, and websites for use in creating a discussion or assignment that relates to the text’s themes or content. You can find and access the teaching guide on the GCP Canvas course and here: <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/international/global-citizenship/global-read/>. Additionally, there are several co-curricular events planned for the spring semester including a conversation with Caroline Hunter, a discussion of the text with Global Citizenship Distinction students during Civility Week, an interfaith panel, and project Happyvism with Justis Lopez. Please see the schedule of events at the end of the newsletter. We hope that you can join us as we engage with *The Book of Joy*.

“But our life is short. Now you see, we are guests here on this planet, visitors who have come for a short time, so we need to use our days wisely, to make our world a little better for everyone.” (The Dalai Lama)

TRUTH TO POWER: A CONVERSATION WITH CAROLINE HUNTER

By Debbie Mura, Professor of Journalism

Growing up in segregated New Orleans, Caroline Hunter was told what she couldn't do: Sit in the front of a bus, drink water from the same fountain as white students, sit at a lunch counter or try on clothes in a department store...

No one told her that she could start an international movement to fight against apartheid in South Africa. She did it anyway!

When Caroline landed a job as a corporate research scientist at Polaroid, it was supposed to be the start of her career as a chemist. But soon after arriving, in 1970, she and her coworker (and future husband), Ken Williams, discovered Polaroid was producing the passbooks key to the oppression of Black people in South Africa. She could not remain silent. Instead, she found her voice and changed the world. Please consider joining us for "Truth to Power: A Conversation with Caroline Hunter," Thursday, Feb. 23 in MAN 105. The program, which will include free lunch, is a perfect complement for those participating in the global read of "The Book of Joy." Please consider creating an assignment that includes attendance at this program or offering extra credit.

While this is a Black History Month program in which Ms. Hunter will engage in a conversation about her life's journey, it focuses largely on **the power of every individual's voice** to bring about change in the world.

The event will begin at 11:30 a.m. in MAN 105 with lunch and images from the work of photojournalist Gordon Park, followed by poetic monologues by Tony Award-nominated playwright and N.J. native reg e. gaines.

Event co-sponsors include Brookdale's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Student Life and Activities, the Global Citizenship Project, the International Education Center, the Black Student Union and the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center in Red Bank. Funding has been made possible in part through a Community College Opportunity Grant.

For more information, contact Prof. Debbie Mura, dmura@brookdalecc.edu

As Brookdale continues to explore the theme of Transcending Differences, the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education (Chhange) wants to remind everyone that we are here to help you seamlessly integrate the topic into your courses, regardless of your discipline.

Chhange works with instructors to tailor programs, exhibit tours and guest speaker engagements to specific courses, providing students with a deeper, more personal understanding of program themes. Holocaust survivors and other Chhange-provided speakers provide first-hand testimony to students not just in history courses but those in health sciences, art, psychology, and many more.

Chhange's permanent exhibit on campus, Journeys Beyond Genocide: The Human Experience, is open for in-person student tours. Journeys Beyond Genocide engages visitors with the human story of the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide, and the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Professors are invited to schedule tours for their classes or encourage students to arrange their own tours for extra-credit or other assignments.

Additionally, Chhange's YouTube channel now provides a variety of programs on topics ranging from genocide survivor testimony to modern masculine identities and much more. These programs are available to be viewed at any time. Visit <https://www.youtube.com/user/ChhangeBCC/videos>

To register for a tour or arrange for a class speaker, contact info@chhange.org or Prof. Debbie Mura at dmura@brookdalecc.edu.



THE HUMAN LIBRARY IS RETURNING TO BROOKDALE

By Ashley Zampogna-Krug, Associate Professor of History

The Human Library will make its much-anticipated return to Brookdale on Thursday, March 9, 2023 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Bankier Library. The Human Library is a place where people are books on loan to readers for a brief chat in a safe space. The goal is to challenge stereotypes and assumptions, to transcend the divisions that separate us with intentional and meaningful dialogue. Some of our book titles from last year included: immigrant, brain damaged, addict, widow, birthmother, debunker, Catholic, foster child, and trauma survivor. Most of our books were students! Both books and readers offered enthusiastic feedback and found the Human Library methodology useful to challenge and highlight prejudices, discrimination, and stigmatization.

Here's what some participants had to say about last year's event:



I am in awe of the courage shown. These were invaluable presentations. Thank you.

I felt the books I read were very willing to answer any question. They seemed to be at ease with their subjects. I hope to attend other Human Library events. It really was a very enjoyable 4 hours that I felt went by fast.

I absolutely loved this event, and I am glad to have been able to be a part of it! While I only sat down fully for the trauma survivor book, I did stay for a little bit in several of the other books and enjoyed learning more about these topics and different people's perspectives on the topics presented. I think every experience had something to offer and something to learn from, and I think it is a truly wonderful thing to be able to bring to the college! (Thank you again for doing this!!!!)

This was a fantastic event! Only by meeting people up-close & personal can you empathize with what others have experienced. This was a great chance to do so in a safe and welcoming environment.

We truly appreciate all those who helped make last year's event so successful. Here's how you can help this year:

Books: Do you or someone you know defy a stereotype? Do you have valuable experiences that readers could benefit from learning about? We will be looking for volunteers to be open books and share their story with a small group of readers. Books will have 10 minutes to share their story (think of the "teaser" found on the inside flaps or back of a book), so that there is time for questions and dialogue between readers and books. Books will receive training prior to the event.

Moderators/librarians: We will need people to help facilitate the sessions (including keeping track of time, stimulating conversation, aiding the "book"), guide readers to the correct rooms, and manage the sign-in table.

Readers: Faculty, please consider incorporating this event into your spring semester curriculum, if appropriate, or offering it as extra credit. We decided to offer this event during college hour to enhance student participation. However, this could also be a great professional development experience for employees. We would love to see readers from all parts of the college!

For more information, please consult:

Brookdale Community College Human Library Webpage: <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/the-human-library/>

Brookdale Community College Human Library LibGuide: <https://libguides.brookdalecc.edu/humanlibrary>

Send comments, concerns, suggestions, or offers to volunteer to: Brooke Batchler, bbatchler@brookdalecc.edu or Ashley Zampogna-Krug, azampognakrug@brookdalecc.edu

CVA GALLERY SPRING 2023 PREVIEW

By Elisa Elorza, CVA Gallery Coordinator, Design Adjunct Faculty, and Global Architectural History Teaching Collaborative Member

In a continuing effort to create a thoughtful, diverse and experimental space where contemporary topics and issues can be explored through art and design, the CVA Gallery would like to share a preview of what we are planning for the Spring 2023 semester at Brookdale.

Vocabularies of Line, January 23 – February 7

"The unfinished, process work and experimental design projects presented in this exhibit (from Figure Drawing II with Amy Farris, and Interior Design studios with Celeste Chirichello) invite you in to the intimate space of making that artists and designers work in. Where, together, we can seek a vocabulary of creating that may help us rethink how we draw our own lines, every day, in a more creative, productive way." (Excerpt from curatorial statement, full statement available on the CVA Gallery web page.)

Media as Medium: Pushing and Pulling Digital Space, February 16 – March 2 (Opening on February 16 corresponds with Civility Week program in the CVA Gallery.)

Media as Medium: Pushing and Pulling Digital Space is based on the conversations and ideas generated in the Fall 2022 Civility Week workshop, Media as Medium. We are curious to see if digital medias that have created dystopian conditions can be creatively engaged by us, together, to imagine social possibilities that we want our future generations to inherit.

Amanda Thackray, Visiting Artist Workshop and Exhibition*; March 10 – April 28

Amanda Thackray is a multidisciplinary ecofeminist artist and educator, based in Newark, NJ, whose practice sits at the intersection of craft, sculpture, and environmentally-based social practice. Thackray is the recipient of an artist-in-residence at the Museum of Art and Design (MAD) in NYC, the NJ State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship in 2022, and the Arctic Circle in Svalbard, Norway Artists' residencies. Her work is in over a dozen public collections including The Metropolitan Museum of Art Watson Library in NYC; Mediatheque Andre Malraux, France; Yale University and The Library of Congress.

If you were unable to join us for *Belonging*, our major Fall exhibit, you will still have opportunities to engage with the show in the coming months. We are completing an interactive 360 VR walkthrough of the exhibit produced with the TLC; and Brookdale TV is finalizing a recording of the Artist Talk. Both will be permanently posted on the CVA Gallery page upon completion. For those interested in Artificial Intelligence in art the Artist Talk video includes artist and Anthropology Professor emeritus and artist Louise Krasniewicz and our Brookdale students passionately discuss her AI based artwork, *Meteor Shower*, which was prominently displayed in the exhibit. Krasniewicz describes her process as: "Using the AI (Artificial Intelligence) program DALL-E, I generate images based on my knowledge of women artists and their styles... and they are a starting point for a new mixed media project. My images are printed on canvas and then machine or hand embroidered, bringing the "artificial" and technical aspect of the images back to traditional women's work. The text prompt for these images was, "A surrealist painting of five old women from the back in an Ana Mendieta style mud sculpture with a meteor shower up above." We are excited to continue to be a space for similarly important and relevant conversations in the upcoming semester- we invite all members of the college and community to be a part of them.

Programming:

March 10: Visiting Artist Workshop, 3:00 to 5:00 pm

March 20: Visiting Artist Workshop work installed, and exhibit opens to the public

April 14: Live Artist Event: Weaving (1pm) and Artist Talk (6pm)

May 2-9: Art and Design Departments Assessment and Jury shows

The CVA Gallery will provide more detailed curatorial statements, one-sheet teaching resources and updates on its web page on the Brookdale Community College website over the course of the semester. Please note that CVA Gallery hours are updated weekly based on specific programming. We recommend checking hours on the web page before planning your visit.



Caul Veil, collaged laser cut paper, 2018, by Amanda Thackray, <https://ajthackray.com/corporeal-bodies/1/o>

*The CVA Gallery's Visiting Artist program is supported by generous donations from individuals and institutions. Please consider supporting this work by specifying the "Visiting Artist Program" fund in a donation through Brookdale's Foundation. Additional information is available by emailing (magha@brookdalecc.edu), calling (732-224-2260) or visiting the Brookdale Foundation page on the Brookdale Community College website.

IMAGINE SOCIAL MEDIA CONSCIENCE: CIVILITY WEEK, FEBRUARY 13-17, 2023

By Dr. Ave Latte of the Education Department, Instructional Designer Stephen M. Fowler of the Teaching and Learning Center, and Dr. William J. Ryan of the Languages and ESL Department

In the Spring of 2023, our focus expands and deepens in our Civility Week theme *Imagine Social Media Conscience*.

The presentations and discussions of Civility Week in the Spring Semester of 2023 seek to closely examine social media's impact in the following and other areas:

- The ways in which global social media platforms allow for marginalized communities to be seen and heard
- Legal and political issues that consider limitations on and protections of individuals' rights to freedom of expression in view of broader sociological constellations and the common good
- Issues relating to the manipulation of social media algorithms in ways that may enable actors in the private sector and in governments to monitor citizens' behavior and interfere with privacy rights
- Consideration of how the functioning of algorithms may encourage the proliferation and amplification of hate speech and violent ideas on social media platforms
- The future of social media in the direction of civility

The following is the description of Civility Week in Fall 2022 that continues to guide our discussions into the Spring of 2023:

Social media allow us to interact with others, becoming part of global communities in ways previously unknown in history. Platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok are shaping collective perceptions of ourselves, others, and the world. Social media creators and users often establish and maintain positive connections through these platforms. Such affiliations and affirmations can contribute to a sense of community and a greater common good.

However, there are increasing concerns regarding the practices of social media platforms and their effects. Manipulative algorithms and anonymous bots present the information we see in the form of user-specific clickbait intended to influence users' actions. User data is collected and sold, and users are carefully guided by predictive analytics to increase engagement and profit. Furthermore, social media frequently disseminate misinformation, hate speech, and violent political ideas which enter the mainstream, threatening civility and democracy.

In light of this complex situation, there are urgent calls for regulation, for platform transparency, and the right to privacy, without compromising free speech. In this regard, forms of civil discourse and rational deliberation, in national and global contexts, allow for the critique of the harmful societal effects associated with social media. Moreover, civility—in behavior, action, and policy—provides the foundations for the reconstruction of the values of democracy in this emergent landscape of social interaction here and around the world.

Tentative List of Events:

Wellness Center Presentation (social media exchange / who you follow)

Political, Policing, and Legal Limitations (presentation)

The Two Walls of China: China's Social Monitoring Efforts (presentation and weblinks for class and Civility Week open discussion forum)

Twitter's Demise: Elon Musk's Power to Protect Freedom of Speech (weblinks for class and Civility Week open discussion forum)

Global Citizen Student Presentation

Social Media Regulations (Center for Humane Technology)

Living Room Conversation Series

Artist Renderings: The Future of Social Media: Its Potential and Challenges (CVA Gallery Exhibition)

Brookdale Community College's Civility Statement:

"Brookdale Community College is committed to freedom of expression while maintaining a civil and ethical learning environment. We believe that a community composed of people with diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and abilities promotes learning and engagement. We are responsible for treating one another with respect and kindness regardless of our differences."



BROOKDALE STUDENTS EARN COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY ABROAD

By Dr. Janice Thomas, Director of the International Education Center

In 2021, Brookdale was recognized as a 20-year top producer of Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship winners. Building on that success, we are proud to recognize three Gilman awardees for the 2022-23 academic year.

“The U.S. Department of State’s Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program enables students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad, providing them with skills critical to our national security and economic prosperity. To be eligible for the Gilman Program, applicants must be receiving a Federal Pell Grant during the time of application or provide proof that they will be receiving a Pell Grant during the term of their study abroad program or internship” (www.gilmanscholarship.org).

In Fall 2022, **Sophia Dargis**, a psychology major from Tinton Falls, NJ, studied abroad at the University of Kingston, just outside of London. She took courses that introduced her to British Culture and Society as well as courses related to her major. When asked about her experience Sophia replied,



Sophia Dargis in London

"Studying in London was my chance of immersing myself in a completely different place, and I learned so many things that staying at home could not teach me."

In Spring 2023, **Natalie Grana** of Holmdel will be studying at Salzburg College in Austria. She’s currently majoring in Liberal Arts while on the wait list to begin our Radiologic Technology program in Fall 2023. Natalie will be studying German and Austrian History along with other courses that fulfill her major requirements. When asked to comment about what she is most looking forward to, she said

"I am looking forward to having the opportunity to travel a lot during my time abroad, so that I may make the most of my experience in Europe. I am hoping to return to the United States with many new perspectives on the world."

Our other Gilman awardee, **Chloe Sullivan** of Oceanport, will be studying at Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies, in Nagasaki Japan. Chloe will continue her study of Japanese and will take courses that expand her knowledge and understanding of Japanese history and culture. When asked about what she is most looking forward to Chloe wrote,

"I’m most looking forward to getting out of this country and learning about real Japanese culture. I’m also extremely excited to eat the food."

Chloe is also the recipient of a generous scholarship from Fund for Education Abroad. “The mission of the Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) is to provide scholarships and ongoing support to students with financial need who are underrepresented among the U.S. study-abroad population. FEA makes life-changing, international experiences accessible to all by supporting students of color, community college, and first-generation college students before, during, and after they participate in education abroad programs” (www.fundforeducationabroad.org).



We are very proud of our scholarship recipients and are grateful to all the faculty, staff, and administrators who each play an important role in making study abroad possible for our students.

For information about study abroad and scholarship opportunities, please email studyabroad@brookdalecc.edu. We are also happy to make in person or virtual presentations to your classes and clubs. We look forward to Brookdale being recognized again when the Gilman program celebrates it’s 30-year anniversary.

IMPACT OF GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP DISTINCTION ON ME

By Belinda Asamoah, Nursing and Creative Writing Major

When I joined the Global Citizenship Distinction Program, I knew I had made a good decision. But little did I know the extent to which I would be transformed through participating in this program. When I joined the GCD, I was only a tiny bud that deeply desired to be intellectually stimulated in and outside the classroom in order to blossom. The GCD provided the perfect environment for me to bloom. Through the close guidance of my faculty advisor, Dr. Raj Wesley, and encouragement from Dr. Janice Thomas, the Director of the International Education Center, I can confidently say that I have been geared in the right direction of being a global citizen.

Each activity I participated in, be it small or big, played an important role in shaping me to be a global citizen. This past semester was not any different. In the Fall 2022 semester, the major activity that the GCD participated in was Civility Week. As Mental Health is our theme for this academic year, our civility week panel discussion was based on this theme and the title of our presentation was “The Effects of Social Media on Mental Health.” In our presentation, not only did we explore the effects of social media on mental health in the US, but we also explored the effects of social media on mental health around the world. Conducting in-depth

research about the global perspectives on mental health and social media and how they are intertwined broadened our understanding of different cultures. It was a very humbling experience when we had the opportunity to share our knowledge with the larger campus community during Civility Week.

As the Spring semester gradually approaches, we are looking forward to exploring Mental Health in both educational and creative ways. We are looking forward to hosting activities that will engage our campus community while encouraging them to have more open discussions about Mental Health. We believe that these will be steps taken in the right direction to help eliminate the stigma that is closely associated with Mental Health.

Additionally, I am particularly enthusiastic about participating in this year’s Global Read.

I hope that through my close reading and analysis of excerpts from “The Book of Joy”, I will be able to spread a little bit of light to the campus community and beyond.



Please share information about the GCD Program with incoming and existing students, and colleagues who might be interested. In your interactions with them in class or in your office, please direct them to complete the process. Announce it on Canvas if you wish. We at the International Education Center and the college are excited at being able to offer such a rich and engaging experience to our students, both on campus and in the virtual environment!

Registered participants become members of a GCD Program Cohort. These students will then commence to work on program requirements; they will have guidance and opportunities to fulfill those needs. Students who are interested in joining the GCD Program can complete the registration form found at <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/international/global-citizenship/global-distinction/>

For additional information, please contact the Global Citizenship Distinction faculty Coordinator: Dr. N. Rajkumari Wesley, Professor of Psychology, Office phone: 732-224-2170, Email: rwesley@brookdalecc.edu

Spring 2023 (GCD) Meetings in MAN 108 and via Zoom:

Tuesday, January 31, 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. - Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, February 14, 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. - Orientation & Kickoff

Tuesday, March 7, 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. - Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 4, 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. - Monthly meeting

Tuesday, May 2, 4:30 p.m.—5:30 p.m. - Monthly meeting

Link if joining via Zoom: <https://brookdalecc.zoom.us/j/93103392167>

THE GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP DISTINCTION (GCD) INITIATIVE

By Dr. N. Rajkumari Wesley, Professor of Psychology

The Global Citizenship Distinction Initiative is an academic enrichment program open to all degree-seeking students at Brookdale; it is a recognition program for exemplary work by students who engage in globally focused curricular and co-curricular activities as they work towards graduation. Students who have successfully completed the requirements are recognized for their exceptional efforts upon graduation with “Global Citizenship Distinction.” A few students are recognized every year at Graduation as GCD Scholars.

Being involved in GCD help students enhance their intercultural competencies as they identify the importance of diversity, civic engagement, and social responsibility

within a global framework. Most significantly, students communicate what they have learned to transferring institutions and potential employers via the completion of an e-portfolio. Through meaningful learning experiences, we encourage our young students to explore and expand their horizon, from their immediate local surroundings to the far-reaching ends of the world. We attempt to build in them an urgent sense of purpose that their knowledge and ideas can make a significant difference across the globe! The goal is to teach them to become ‘global citizens’ who develop a deeper and genuine sense of empathy for all people, thereby becoming a contributing resource to make the world a better place.

The strong connection between academia and world issues is not new – it is woven into the content of every discipline. The purpose of the GCD Initiative is to foster a deeper understanding between the two, thus helping students to face the challenges of the future by being better prepared, and with an understanding of their unique roles in the changing horizon world-wide.

Through the International Students’ Orientation, the Honors Orientation and several other college-wide announcements, we recruit new students into the GCD Program. We have monthly GCD Meetings where the cohort discuss and share ideas for future projects with us. Students engaged in taking Globally Enhanced Classes will accrue credit for their academic merit. Further, they participate in college-wide activities organized by the Global Citizenship Project, Phi Theta Kappa and the International Center itself. It is heartening to note that within the group of GCD students, there is a shared sense of community feeling, where they encourage and support each other via their group chats, working remote. They come regularly to Office Hours with me, where we discuss and lay out their agenda that will get them to their goal of earning GCD Credits.

GCD students are engaged and participate in activities organized under the theme picked by the GCP Committee for the next two years, “Transcending Divisions”. In addition, the current cohort of GCD students picked the theme of “Mental Health” for a detailed study and analysis for this academic year. They are now engaged in planning and laying out an agenda for the calendar of events to create an awareness of this critical issue that spans the continents of the entire globe.

Fall 2022 began well with Monthly Meetings, and Office Hours exclusively for GCD students. We inducted a few newcomers. Students brainstormed on the theme of Mental Health and each picked items to lead such as

Workshops in High Schools, Invite Guest Speakers, Poster Campaigns, and Campus Awareness among others.

We were invited by the organizers of the Civility Week Program, to present in their second-year event again: their theme was ‘Social Media Conscience’ this time around. Our GCD panel of three students: Belinda Asamoah, Sophia Jimenez, and Mary Romanowski did a great job presenting their research review and fielding questions and on a global perspective of “The Impact of Social Media on Mental Health”. A panel of four GCD students: Belinda Asamoah, Eden Pela, Morena Traditi and Fafa Awoonor are presenting sections from the selection of the Global Read, “The Book of Joy”, at Civility Week in February. As I write this article, they are busy prepping.

We are proud of our students who are working hard to complete their Portfolios, to graduate with the unique honor of Global Citizenship Distinction; they will be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments at the Global Citizenship Project Awards Ceremony in April.

We are grateful to all faculty who have globally enhanced their classes and call upon our colleagues to join this special group. Furthermore, we owe our deep gratitude to several individuals and services like Student Life, the Teaching & Learning Center, College Relations, The Bankier Library and the Office of Diversity among others, for working with us throughout the year. None of what we do is possible without their strong support and encouragement.

SPRING 2023 MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Global Citizenship Project Meetings: MAN 106 and via Zoom

Monday, February 6, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Monday, March 6, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Monday, April 17, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Link for joining via Zoom: <https://brookdalecc.zoom.us/j/93755037267>

International Education Advisory Council Meetings:

Thursday, January 26, 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Friday, February 24, Time TBA

Thursday, March 30, 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Friday, April 21, 11:45 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

**Join all meetings with this link: <https://brookdalecc.zoom.us/j/96854061978>

SPRING PROGRAMMING:

Civility Week: “Imagine Social Media Conscience”

February 13—February 17

Click here for the full list of events: <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/civility-week/>

Transcending Divisions: Social Media: Is free speech equal everywhere around the world? (A Civility Week Event)

Tuesday, February 14, 11:45 a.m.—1:00 p.m., Room TBD

International students debate about freedom of speech and various equality issues around the globe.

Sponsored by International Student Association, the International Education Center, & Civility Week Committee.

Transcending Divisions: Global Read: Selected Readings and Discussion (A Civility Week Event) Day, time, and location TBD

Students enrolled in the Global Citizenship Distinction Program will read selected passages from *The Book of Joy* and will engage the audience in a discussion.

Sponsored by Global Citizenship Distinction, the International Education Center, & the Civility Week Committee

Transcending Divisions: Truth to Power: A Conversation with Caroline Hunter

Thursday, February 23, 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., SLC, Navesink Rooms I and II

Free lunch (for program attendees only) beginning at 11:30 a.m. When Caroline Hunter landed a job as a corporate research scientist at Polaroid, it was supposed to be the start of her career as a chemist. But soon after arriving, in 1970, she and her coworker (and future husband), Ken Williams, discovered Polaroid was producing the passbooks, key to the oppression of Black people in South Africa. She could not remain silent. Instead, she found her voice and changed the world!

Sponsored by Diversity and Inclusion/CCOG, Black Student Union, Student Life and Activities, The International Education Center, the Global Citizenship Project, & the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center in Red Bank

Transcending Divisions: Brookdale’s 2nd Annual Human Library

Thursday, March 9, 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m., Bankier Library

Narratives are a powerful communication tool and can bridge divides when used the right way. So, instead of interpreting someone’s take from the printed word, what if you could hear it from them in person? The Human Library invites readers to “borrow human beings serving as open books.” Come to the Human Library and *unjudge* someone!

Sponsored by the Global Citizenship Project, Diversity and Inclusion/CCOG, Bankier Library, Student Life & Activities, & the International Education Center

SPRING PROGRAMMING CONT.:

Global Read: Project Happyvism

Friday, March 31, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m., Student Life Center

Join us as we enhance our reading of *The Book of Joy* with an interactive event. Justis Lopez will guide and engage the audience in Happyvism, a project that activates and spreads joy in black and brown communities by embracing self-love.

Sponsored by Global Citizenship Project, International Education Center, & Diversity and Inclusion/CCOG

Transcending Divisions: ISA International Festival

Tuesday, April 4, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., SLC, Navesink Rooms

Each spring the International Student Association hosts the annual International Festival. The festival is a multicultural celebration, featuring ethnic food, dance and music, arts and crafts, and cultural booths. Several Brookdale clubs and organizations, and individual students are involved in the festival representing their unique international or cultural significance.

Featuring Afro Brazilian Capoeira: Spanning 500 years this martial art was hidden in dance, music and the coded language of Brazilian Portuguese. The Crew: Baiano, Amazonas, Gaivota, and Graveto are all professional instructors and practitioners who come from all parts of NJ to demonstrate and facilitate the workshop which will involve the movements, music, and magic of the art of Capoeira. Join us! No experience necessary! Watch a video showcasing Capoeira martial art: [VIDEO LINK](#)

Sponsored by International Student Association, Student Life and Activities, International Education Center, Diversity and Inclusion/CCOG
Free and Open to the public

Transcending Divisions: Nigerian Speaker on Mental Health

Date, time, location TBD

Sponsored by Global Citizenship Distinction and the International Education Center

Transcending Divisions: Global Read Interfaith Dialogue

Date, time, and location TBD

Join us for an interfaith panel conversation with a Buddhist practitioner and Christian pastor.

Sponsored by the Global Citizenship Project, the International Education Center, and the Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought

Transcending Divisions: Global Citizenship Project Awards Ceremony

Monday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m., Student Life Center

At the 12th annual Global Citizenship Project (GCP) Awards ceremony, Brookdadians will be celebrated for their globally minded coursework and/or their service to the community.

Sponsored by International Education Center, Global Citizenship Project & Student Life & Activities.



Justis Lopez & Ryan Parker, co-creators of Project Happyvism

THE GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP PROJECT

The Global Citizenship Project (formed in 2009) is a group of Brookdale employees, representing a variety of academic disciplines and programs, all of whom believe in the transformative power of learning, of pushing beyond boundaries and seeing past the self, of engaging with the world while in school.

GET INVOLVED!

Brookdale faculty and employees can engage by creating Globally Enhanced Classes, nominating students for [GCP Awards](#), and participating in the Global Read. All Brookdadians can contribute to GCP by writing articles for the GCP newsletter and by planning or attending globally themed events. Faculty can also access teaching resources in the GCP Canvas course. For a sample of GCP's virtual events, please check out the [GCP Playlist on Brookdale's YouTube channel](#). For more information about the Global Citizenship Project contact Dr. Ashley Zampogna-Krug (azampognakrug@brookdalecc.edu) faculty liaison to the International Education Center.

PHOTOS FROM THE 11TH ANNUAL GCP AWARDS CEREMONY



Students from ARCH 246 standing by their visual responses to their learning through the Enslaved Builders assignment facilitated by Elisa Elorza.

Employee Engagement Awardees:

Dr. Ave Latte, Education
Sean Cahill, Graphic Design
Liana Bluzer, Graphic Design
Judi Ungar, Library



Our 2022 student awardees!