



Global Community Students Reflect on Being a Global Citizen at Baylor University

By: Rosalie Barrera

After an educational and eventful semester in the Global Community-Living Learning Center, the student members came together last December for the cohort course final exam and reflected on their experiences at Baylor. This led to insightful conversations and original essays on the topic "What it means to be a global citizen at Baylor University".

For Evan Choi, being a global citizen is a state of mind—knowing that we are first citizens of the world and second citizens of our individual countries. Emily Edmonson, on the other hand, believes that the Christian nature of Baylor helps her understand the meaning of global citizenship. She elucidated in her essay, "In every culture, philosophy, language, dialect, ethnicity, nationality and skin tone there is the imprint of God." This understanding encourages Emily to "look past the differences to the substance" of people.

For the majority of students, such as Jonathan Roach, Raoaa Edmon, and Nipa Patel, being a global citizen at



Students at the Homecoming Parade

Baylor is much more concrete and involves, in the words of Ashley Woo, "actively learning and wanting to learn about" different regions and cultures. In the same vein, Mel Plemons believes that global citizenship at Baylor means "learning about global geography, culture and history" while being open to tasting a country's food and listening to its music.

Sharing one's own culture, language, and stories about travel abroad with others is also a fundamental part of the equation according to Samantha McKinney, Leslie Mayemba, Regina Martinez, and Libby Zoldak. This exchange between cultures was also the main topic for Paige Verser who would love to have more opportunities to interact with international Baylor students not living in the community.

Along the same lines, many of our students believe that being a Global Citizen at Baylor means forming meaningful bonds with others. Jaja Chen, Amy Utley, and Mackenzie Johnson, for example, place a great deal of importance on the friendships they have forged with Baylor and Global Community students that have different

backgrounds than their own while Stephanie Martinez believes that we should consider our global neighbors to be our very brothers and sisters.

Education was another common thread that ran through several of the essays. Stephanie Martinez and Ashlyn Brown feel that knowing about current world events is a big part of being a global citizen on campus. The importance of being a well-educated global citizen in finding a good job weighs heavily on the minds of many of our students like Bernice Andaluz-Ruiz,



Students at International Dance Party

Marissa Minter and Michael Desrosiers who wrote, "As a college student about to enter the workforce, it is important to be globally-minded."

Many students, such as a Chelsea Witherspoon and Patara Williams, also believe that service to the Waco community plays a role in being a global citizen at Baylor. David Parsi, for example, reflected, "I learned that one must be willing to sacrifice time to help people who really need it."

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GC students working on painting project during move-in



GC-LLC Field Trip to Austin

By: Annie Wilde



*Taking a photo in front of "Flamencow"
Cows are displayed all over Austin*

This year the Global Community took some of its students to the Viva La Vida Fest in Austin, Texas to celebrate the Dia De Los Muertos festival. We got to witness and participate in the cultural festivities such as face painting, mask making, and of course, the traditional Day of the Dead food (like sugar skulls and pan de muertos!).

We visited the Mexic-Arte Museum, which hosted the event. It

had exhibits of Day of the Dead artwork as well as a few examples of altars or shrines that many in the Mexican community create to honor their dead. This was a very interesting exhibit and made me wonder, what would my family put on my shrine? Personally, I am sure my altar would include a tennis racquet, piles of chocolate chip cookies, and a massive Spongebob statue. It was definitely thought-provoking.

There was also a Dia de los Muertos parade later in the evening. Although we did not stay for the parade, we got to see where they were setting up for it. Here we got to watch children dance in their festive dresses and sombreros.

We stopped to eat at the Whole Foods in downtown Austin. The variety and diversity of food was not only large, but delicious. The

selection ranged from sushi to barbeque (which I unfortunately did not discover until after I had eaten my couscous and lo mein. Oh well, here's to branching out).

That is part of what makes the Global Community so great, trying new things and interacting with different cultures. Baylor's Global Community trip to Austin was definitely a success.



*GC Students taking a photo with
dancers and musicians at the event.*

What It Means to be a Global Citizen (continued from page 1)

For Parsi as well as fellow community member Rodney Garrick, promoting social justice along with giving a voice to the voiceless is a large part of global citizenship and something they feel they should do as Baylor students.

Since many of our community members share a passion for foreign language learning, there were several essays that expressed the importance of taking language classes and conversing in their target languages with Global Community suitemates. Ben Freemyer, Meredith Hale, Jehanzeb Khan, and Sharleen Campbell all expressed this in their essays.

On another note, Annia Ruiz, Victoria Soeung, Ben Freemyer and Rene Ramirez wrote that getting out of one's comfort zone as a student is a



*Attendees of the International Dance
Party this past Fall*

primary component of being a global citizen while at Baylor.

Global citizenship for our students by and large was much more than merely showing tolerance for other cultures, but rather appreciating and celebrating diversity. Charles Jester expressed this eloquently when he wrote, "I think being a global citizen at Baylor means being aware of

cultural diversity here in Waco and around the world, and being committed to appreciating and encouraging others to appreciate it as well."

There were other insightful ideas shared by the students in their final exam compositions. A number of students such as Josh Rangel also expressed appreciation for the information Dr. Boerm, Professor Gonzalez, Holly Joyner, and Ah Ra Cho shared about France, Italy, Switzerland, and Germany. Upon reading these heart-felt essays, it is evident that our Global Community members have not only grown tremendously during the first half of the academic year but also that they are determined to keep learning and growing during their time here at Baylor and well beyond!



International Students of the GC-LLC: Regina Martinez & Leslie Mayemba

By: *Leslie Mayemba*

Can you please present yourself and tell me where you come from?

Regina Martinez: My name is Regina. I am from Mexico City, Mexico, but I have moved 7 times. I like to play soccer and love to learn about different cultures because I consider myself a global citizen.

Leslie Mayemba: My name is Leslie. I am an international student and I come from France. This semester I am part of the Global Community, and so far it has been an incredible experience.

As an international student what do you think of the Global Community?

Regina Martinez: I really like it. It makes me proud of my country: I'm different and here I can express it because the people are accepting. It is an incredible experience to be able to share my culture with other students and friends.

Leslie Mayemba: I am really happy to be part of the Global Community. I really enjoy sharing my culture with people who are willing to learn more about it. I am also glad to be able to share my experience abroad with some other international students. I really feel at home here.

Why and how did you choose to become a member of the global community?

Regina Martinez: Actually, I found out by accident as I was applying for Housing, and I decided to apply because the whole idea was appealing to me. I wanted to learn more about different cultures and I wanted to learn French so the immersion suite program was perfect for me.

Leslie Mayemba: When my school back in France gave me the opportunity to become a member of the Global Community I was very excited. I thought that it would be a great opportunity to meet new people and to share my culture as well.

What is your favorite part of the Global community?

Regina Martinez: I think the thing that I enjoyed the most was meeting new and interesting people.

Leslie Mayemba: Well, I really enjoyed meeting people and learning about other cultures during the monthly dinners at Monica's for example. I also really like the fact that we had to be involved in different activities and service events.



Regina Martinez



Leslie Mayemba





Worldwide Worship

Global Community Students Give a Peek Into the Way They Worship

By: Patara Williams

Baylor University is the largest Baptist research university in the world. To the untrained eye, most would expect that the university is comprised solely of Protestant students. The untrained eye, in the specific case of the Global Community, would be blind.

The Global Community houses students from a vast spectrum of backgrounds, from Korea to France to America. There are many different perspectives on worship, all of which are interesting and absolutely amazing!

The Global Community encourages a broad perspective of different places, cultures, and everything in between. On the other hand, it discourages an egocentric

mindset, and in turn provides the students with innumerable opportunities to explore and procure knowledge of global issues, whether it be lifestyles, geography, politics, or religious beliefs.



One Global student relays that he worships through “song, service, work, and interpersonal relations.” The community requires each student to complete a certain

amount of service hours each semester, all of which have some type of positive effect regardless of the size of the deed.

When asked if students prefer to worship as an individual unit or as a community, many desired to take a community perspective and worship as a whole. Worship can bring about a sense of unity and harmony. Also, many students noted that they feel as though community worship is something which ought to be done.

I am happy that I was a part of this community that seeks to enhance leadership skills and also deepen spiritual life by celebrating world religions.

Global Community Provides an Unique Experience

By: Jonathan Roach



Jonathan plus 2 of his suitemates Jeremy and Michael at a Global Dinner

It goes without saying that the experiences through being a part of the Global Community are invaluable in comparison to what one might experience in a more ordinary living situation.

Having only been a part of the community myself for about a year now, I have been able to take part in

events such as the Dia de Los Muertos festival in Austin, serve in opportunities like Steppin’ Out, and even take a little time daily to speak some German with my suitemates in the German immersion suite.

Despite having been a part of so many wonderful experiences already, it is always enlightening to hear what returning students to Global Community have to say about what they have thought about the program since they have been here.

In an interview with Michael Desrosiers, a junior in his second year with the Global Community, I had the opportunity to ask what it is like to stay for multiple years.

“You get out of Global Community what you put into it.” said

Desrosiers. “I would encourage anyone to do every event they can while they are in the program. If you do not participate, the Global Community starts to become merely a class which defeats the entire purpose of being in a living learning center. It really is a good program, all in all.”

Desrosiers is the leader of the events and activities committee in the GC-LLC, and has participated in many events since joining the community.

“The dinner parties every month and the final banquet are my favorite events. We eat delicious international food and have plenty of opportunities to ‘nerd out’ about international stuff with like-minded students.”



The Global Community Launches New Passport Program and Announces the Top Five Hour-earners for Fall 2011

By: Rosalie Barrera

Every semester, the Global Community-Living Learning Center students are asked to complete surveys concerning their experience living in the community. Considering student input while also observing what other colleges and universities do with regard to experiential learning in Living Learning Centers, Ah Ra Cho, program coordinator, lead the way in designing the new Global Community enrichment program called "Passport to Success".

In the spring of 2012, each student will receive a personalized passport with a checklist of a variety of global, language, and service activities they are to complete by the end of April. The list includes 27 activities including multicultural dinners, international movie viewing, field trips, urban missions, attendance at church in a language other than English, participation in global lecture events and more.

The Passport Program creator, Ah Ra Cho explains, "I feel that the new passport program is a way for GC students to get a broader, more diverse experience outside of the classroom. I think it is important to learn about languages, global issues, get leadership skills, and serve others as a part of the GC-LLC. This will help create well-rounded knowledgeable global citizens for the future!"

Adding to the excitement of this new program is that the students will be competing for prizes throughout the semester. Students who work diligently during the first part of the semester will be rewarded at mid-term. At the Spring Banquet in April, awards will be given both to the students who complete the highest number of hours over the entire year as well as those who earned the most hours during the spring term.

The five students in the lead for the highest number of hours over the full academic year are Sharleen Campbell (60.5), Regina Martinez (52), Jaja Chen (50.5), Evan Choi (50), and Christina Garcia (44). Hot on their heels are David Parsi and Chelsea Witherspoon with 43.5 hours each.

In total, the Global Community students completed 1,887.25 hours last fall. Considering the enthusiasm the students have shown toward the new Passport Program, it is very likely that our total hours will be even higher in the spring!



Hour leaders from left to right: Sharleen Campbell, Jaja Chen, Evan Choi, Regina Martinez, Christina Garcia.

Photo by: Berenice Andaluz Ruiz

Christmas Around the World

By: Jehanzeb Khan

Many people with different ethnic backgrounds have a different way of celebrating joyous events such as those celebrated in the United States.

My roommate, Rene Ramirez, comes from a Hispanic background and celebrates Christmas in a different way. My roommate says celebrating Christmas is a unique experience in his Mexican culture. Christmas in Mexico starts after an important holiday: Our Lady of Guadalupe.

To prepare for the elaborate Hispanic celebrations, Hispanics try to take off from work two weeks prior to Christmas. In doing this, they want to spend time with family and friends and take in the full effect of the birth of Jesus. The main traditions of Christmas in Mexico are *Las Posadas* and *Las Pastorelas*.



Another person that I asked about how he celebrates Christmas is my suitemate, Michael Moreno. Coming from a Greek background, he explained to me that Christmas in modern times has now become flashier compared to quieter times that were more spiritually as it was in the past. My suitemate explained how there are many customs associated with Christmas.

For example, kids from villages go door to door and sing holiday songs and wishes. And from the religious point of view, this is a time when people get together in Greece and pray for all the things God has provided them.

Christmas is celebrated around the world, but many unique traditions and celebrations make each culture's Christmas one of a kind.



The Immersive Residence Hall Life

By: Will Nations



GC students enjoying the Austrian–Hungarian GC Monthly Dinner

An immersion suite is one of the major advantages of the Global Community, granting a myriad of pleasant perks and enjoyments that you can't really find anywhere else.

Within an immersion suite, students who study the same language are chosen to live together, so you already know that your suitemates will have a common interest in the language and culture of your preference. Plus, you can practice the language with each other!

The Global Community is constantly promoting activities to do within your suites to foster interaction like this.

Beginner students can ask the more experienced ones for advice and the advanced students can brush up on their basics, so roomies can have fun together practicing the language, exchanging advice, joking about the

classes, and learning about each other in the process.

The very fact that your suitemates study the same language indicates that you have similar interests, so becoming friends becomes much easier.

Not only do you make an easy friend, but you make an easy friend out of your *suitemate*, earning you exemptions from many of the common problems people have with residential experiences.

Don't be surprised if you find some of your life-long friends among the cultured, engaging individuals you meet among Global activities.



**All that it takes for evil to triumph
is for good people to do nothing.
— Sir Edmund Burke**

The GC-LLC helps make a difference to the Baylor Community & Waco area!

Total Hours Contributed by Students:

Language Learning: 623

Events and Activities: 622

Service: 642

Total Hours: 1887

We are proud of our students for contributing so much to the community and the outside world!

For more info on the Global Community go to
www.baylor.edu/gcllc

Why join the Global Community?

- Live with internationally minded friends and students from other countries
- Be immersed in your target language by attending faculty-led Lingo Groups organized especially for Global-LLC members
- Take a cohort class to enhance your understanding of the world and its dynamic cultures
- Deepen your spiritual life by learning about other religions
- Receive and provide mentoring
- Develop leadership through community service
- Participate in global events such as International Dinners, World Cinema nights, Global Village, the Candlelight Procession.

OsoGlobal

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