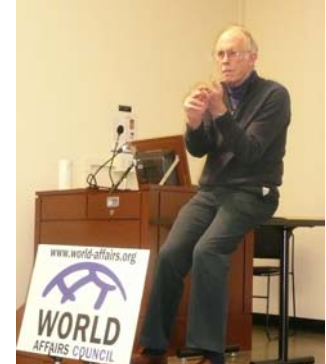




Global Classroom 2008-2009 End of Year Update



Documentary filmmaker Tizita Assefa enjoys Ethiopian cuisine at our Ethiopia training.

2009 World Citizen Essay Contest winners with Ian Moncaster and French Ambassador Pierre Vimont.

Professor Walter Andrews discussed modern Turkey's conflicted relationship to its cultural past.

Over the course of this year, Global Classroom has provided teachers and students with a wide variety of international resources, ideas, opportunities, and people. The **Professional Development** program has covered everything from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the increasing role of technology and how it can be used in the classroom to the culture and history of Ethiopia. Bringing youth from around the globe to the Seattle area was accomplished through the **2009 Youth Ambassadors** Program in January when select Brazilian high school students were given the opportunity to participate in a two-week educational exchange program which allowed them to meet with community members and organizations in Seattle. In May, eight Serbian students joined in the numbers of international youth visiting the area. Global Classroom has also worked to broaden its reach to teachers and students across Washington through online tools to disseminate resource materials and through "The Expert Interview," a **classroom video series** featuring interviews with international policy experts. Global Classroom is building on the Global Youth Leadership Institute by continuing to work with students on peer education and service learning projects to increase the opportunities for young people to build a greater understanding of international issues and cultures; this tradition will continue with the second annual **Global Youth Leadership Institute**, scheduled for June 22-26. The 2008-2009 Global Classroom year has been one filled with exploration, growth, and learning, and it could not have been successful without the help of its donors.

2008-2009 Highlights

- Offered ten Professional Development programs on international topics.
- Piloted long distance learning from UW workshop to Everett School District (live streaming End of Food program).
- GC pilots Virtual World project with southend YMCA students in a weekly after school setting.
- GC organizes "Global Futures" (games and virtual worlds) workshop.
- Bob Mazelow celebrated as 2008 World Educator on January 28.
- Essay contest winners celebrated on May 27.
- Experimented with fees-for-service (coordinated full-day inservice on China for Central Kitsap School District).
- 1702 IVP visitors in the classroom.
- GC organized eight additional workshops at Washington State Council for the Social Studies Regional and State Conferences and through OSPI.
- Second Annual Global Youth Leadership Institute scheduled for June 22-26.
- Six teachers headed to Turkey from July 13 -24.

"I know that WAC events and resources are the life blood of my teaching. They motivate and energize me, not to mention inform me! And that passion helps me push and question, challenge and guide my students towards being global citizens."

"Because of the consistent effort to meet the highest standard, I have found that the materials and insights provided from WAC, as well as different WAC sponsored events, have had significant positive impacts on my teaching as well as on my personal comfort level with so many current international issues."

Spring Teacher Workshops have included:

Afghanistan on our Minds and in the Classroom 2/25/09 *This workshop included a brief historical and cultural overview of Afghanistan, a look at the major ethnic groups and regions of Afghanistan in the 20th century, and a discussion on how the armed conflicts of the 80s and 90s changed the socio-cultural landscape of Afghanistan to help us understand the Afghanistan of 2009. Two young women visiting from Afghanistan also answered a number of questions.*

Turkey – Searching for a Cultural Center 3/10/09 *A talk on Turkey’s past, present, and future, followed by former study tour teachers discussing the knowledge that they gleaned from their travels, allowed for a stimulating look at how to teach this amazing and complex culture.*

The End of Food – With Best-selling Author Paul Roberts 4/21/09 *Educators were allowed to “travel” with Paul Roberts around the world as he identified the forces that are undermining our capacity to produce food that is safe, nourishing, or adequate to meet the appetites of a rapidly growing population.*

Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 5/12/09 *This look at Israelis and Palestinians who have overcome anger and grief to work towards grassroots solutions allowed for a more holistic view of this destructive, painful conflict.*

How Internet Games and Virtual Worlds Can Help You Deliver a More Global Education 5/20/09 *This first hands-on workshop allowed educators to try out fun, free, educational, online games designed to teach about global topics from the poverty cycle to preventing malaria to what it is like to be a refugee, giving them a view of why and how educators around the world are using virtual worlds to bring students together in international learning communities and to access professional learning opportunities for themselves.*

Using Technology to Bring the Classroom to the World – “Global Futures” Project

Global Classroom has entered the virtual realm by exploring *Skoolaborate*, an international learning community which uses a private area in Teen Second Life as a virtual environment where students and teachers can communicate and collaborate. The purpose of this pilot project is to explore the use of online games and virtual worlds for supporting teaching and learning about global issues as well as helping students and teachers to make substantial learning connections with their counterparts in other countries.

So far, Global Classroom has worked with educators to develop a continually growing list of educational online games, virtual worlds, and related resources. Groups of students have been brought into *Skoolaborate* to test reactions and potential projects, including the development of an interactive display on issues relating to foreign aid. Through this program, GC and students have begun to form a relationship with teachers and youth overseas to collaborate and discuss ideas.

Opportunities for future development of the “Global Futures” project are enormous, and Global Classroom already has plans to move ahead with this program. The Global Youth Leadership Institute students will be brought into *Skoolaborate* and GC plans to facilitate discussion with at least one overseas group during the week of the institute. A new group of students from Denny Middle School will also become involved in *Skoolaborate*, and they may be able to attend an event being put on by students in Los Angeles, who are working on environmental issues and also on studying ancient cultures.



A glance into the virtual world of Skoolaborate.

2009 World Citizen Essay Contest

This year, the World Affairs Council hosted the 11th annual World Citizen Essay Contest for Washington State students in third through twelfth grades. The goal of the World Citizen Essay Contest is to promote discussion among students, teachers, families, and community members about the ways that individuals can effect positive change in the global community.

In this year’s question, students were asked to put themselves in “Hillary Clinton’s shoes” and choose one international issue important today, consider why it was important to both the United States and to the world, and then determine what they would do about the issue. On May 27, we congratulated our 2009 World Citizen Essay Contest winners on their thoughtful, insightful, and well-written responses to a question requiring knowledge of international issues and their impact on both the U.S. and the world.