

## Global Classroom Winter 2009



*Rural Development Institute (RDI) discusses issues of land in China*



*Karen Kodama (c) 2008 World Citizen, and Bob Mazelov (r) 2008 World Educator with Paul Krugman, 2008 Nobel Laureate*



*Former Ambassador Roger Meese shares his Congo PowerPoint with teachers*

No snow days for Global Classroom this winter! **Global Classroom** has been busy opening up the world to Puget Sound area teachers and students with visitors from around the world, NGOs involved connecting students and teachers with international people, key note speakers including a dozen journalists from Georgia, an ambassador, and a Nobel Laureate engaging all through their real life experiences.

We're pleased to share a brief summary of recent highlights:

- Professional development events for K-12 teachers
- Youth engagement and outreach
- K-12 student and teacher involvement in community programs (World Citizen Awards)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Annual World Essay Contest
- Global Classroom awarded grant to take six teachers to Turkey
- International visitors in the classroom

Preparing teachers for the challenges of educating our young people about the changing world continues to be the cornerstone of the Council's educational outreach. November-

February professional development workshop topics included:

- ***Waking up to Russia: A Look at Russia from a Global Perspective with an Inside Look at the Russia-Georgia Conflict*** (this workshop not only included an overview of Russia's relations with the West but it also featured a panel of journalists visiting from Georgia sharing their on-the-spot experiences of covering the Russia-Georgia conflict)
- ***Portraits of Iran with Rick Steves*** (Rick Steves, through slides and his experiences, shared his ideas regarding how to teach this "most poorly understood yet fascinating land.")

### Teacher Feedback:

*"I like it when I get to hear presentations by experts on the topics that match what I would receive in a college-level course. Global Classroom always provides this. Being better informed is what I am after."*

*"Success for me at the workshop is where an expert is a true expert and has a love of teaching their knowledge. Success is when you walk away smarter, more energized and thrilled you're a teacher. Yes...this (Congo) workshop was a success!"*

- **Central Africa with a Special Focus on the Democratic Republic of the Congo** (teachers were inspired after spending the evening with Roger Meece, former Ambassador to the Congo, who shared his on-the-ground experiences in Congo, the third largest country in Africa).
- **China Matters: Exploring this Diverse Land and People with a Special Focus on Rural Land Reform** (Roy Prosterman, founder of the Rural Development Institute, introduced teachers to Seattle-headquartered RDI - the world's leading organization on rural land rights; all teachers received a 100-photo PPT with a corresponding China teaching unit developed by Global Classroom. Copies available upon request.

Each session builds on the inherent resources of the World Affairs Council to connect teachers with leading experts in a variety of fields. To help bring these conversations into the classroom, our in-house master teachers supervise the development of comprehensive resource packages that offer practical, youth-centered projects and lesson ideas.

### Youth Engagement and Outreach



2008-2009 GYLI students

Building on the success of our first summer program for high school students called Global Youth Leadership Institute (GYLI), we have continued to work with these students on raising awareness about global issues and learning about careers in international fields.

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, eight of these students gathered to reconnect and to hear a presentation by the Honorable Darryl Johnson, Former US Ambassador to Thailand, who spoke about US-China relations, international issues facing the new US President, and careers in the Foreign Service. The students asked probing questions and left inspired.

Students also had the opportunity to connect with two University of Washington students who are members of the Jackson School of International Studies Student Association. Excellent role models, these two university students spoke about how to take a leadership role in raising awareness among peers about global issues, and they also offered to help the high school students find speakers for their events.

Summer institute students were also invited to attend the January 28<sup>th</sup> Global Leadership Series event described below. Eight students attended and took advantage of the opportunity to check in with Global Classroom staff and listen to Paul Krugman.

Many students are also following up by conducting peer education events at their schools. One student partnered with his school's DECA club to organize a Soup Supper and other fundraising events for bed nets to prevent malaria in the developing world. They raised over \$400 for malaria prevention!

This student became involved with a global issue that interested him, gained leadership experience, and raised awareness within his school community. Global Classroom staff continues to work to help other summer institute students achieve their goals, too.

***"I'm hoping everything goes smoothly, but I've never done anything like this . . . Thanks for all the support."***

- GYLI student who raised awareness among his peers & raised over \$400 for malaria prevention

## K-12 Student and Teacher Involvement in the Global Leadership Series and World Citizen Awards

Through our Teacher Liaison Program we regularly invite and encourage students and teachers to attend public programs that may complement their classroom studies. On January 28th, the Global Classroom invited over 60 students and teachers to attend the World Citizen Awards with Paul Krugman as the keynote speaker. How often can students and teachers hear a Nobel Laureate Economist discuss global economic events - and join with the Seattle community (including Governor Gary Locke) to celebrate the World Citizen Awards honoring Karen Kodama, International Schools Administrator, Seattle Public Schools, and Bob Mazelow, High School Teacher, Lakeside School?



*Karen Kodama, 2008  
World Citizen, and  
Bob Mazelow, 2008  
World Educator*

Many of us can trace our interest in world cultures, languages, or any other subject to one very special teacher. Maybe it was a high school French teacher or a World History teacher in middle school. In many immeasurable (and often unrecognized) ways, teachers are on the front lines in helping our children become more informed, tolerant, and compassionate global citizens. At the World Affairs Council, we believe in the fundamental importance of supporting, encouraging, and recognizing teachers. Karen was recognized as the World Citizen for her pioneering work as the founding Principal of Seattle's first international school, the John Stanford International School, and for her continuing leadership in launching additional schools dedicated to introducing students to world languages, cultures, and economics. Bob was honored for his exceptional dedication to bringing international issues into the classroom.

On January 28<sup>th</sup> we were pleased to not only salute Karen and Bob but to invite teachers from all across Puget Sound and celebrate the work they do to “bring the world into the classroom.”

### 2009 World Citizen Essay Contest

This year, the World Affairs Council hosts 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. This coincides with the World Affairs Council's mission to promote dialogue and debate about international issues of critical importance to our region and world.

**ESSAY QUESTION:** Imagine that you are Hillary Rodham Clinton, the new U.S. Secretary of State and head of the U.S. Department of State, whose mission is to *create a more secure, democratic, and prosperous world for the benefit of the American people and the international community*. Describe one international issue you think is important today. Why do you think this issue is important to both the U.S. and the world? Considering the mission of the U.S. Department of State, what would you do about this issue?

Please visit our website at [www.world-affairs.org](http://www.world-affairs.org) for further contest information and details.

**Deadline:** March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009



*Ian Moncaster, President and CEO, World  
Affairs Council (far left, back) and Megan  
Bowman, former Board Chair (far right) with  
winners of the 2008 World Essay Contest*

## **Six Seattle Area Teachers to Journey to Turkey this Summer**

Global Classroom is excited to announce that six Puget Sound 6-12 grade teachers have a chance to go on a study tour to Turkey this summer funded by the Turkish Cultural Foundation and administered by the World Affairs Council. Almost all expenses are paid for this 11 day trip. It is a simple application procedure but teachers must attend a mandatory workshop on March 10th in order to be considered. Applications are available on-line. **Deadline:** April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

## **International Visitors in the Classroom**



*IVP youth guests taking a break to get a picture at the 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Rally in Seattle*

Since 1951, the World Affairs Council's purpose has been to promote greater understanding of global affairs, educate and engage our Puget Sound community through a balance of public events, educational activities and the international visitor program. When relevant, the Council has connected distinguished guests from the **International Visitor Program (IVP)** with local schools, teachers, and students. Since January 2008, over 1,500 K-12 students in the Puget Sound area have met with our visitors.

Within the International Visitor Program, the Council recently created the **Global Youth Leadership Program (GYLP)** in order to bring youth from around the globe to the Seattle area.

One example of such an event occurred in January. The World Affairs Council partnered with World Learning, in conjunction with the U.S. Embassy in Brazil, to implement the **2009 Youth Ambassadors Program**. The Program consists of a two-week educational exchange opportunity in the United States for disadvantaged Brazilian high school students with outstanding profiles, great leadership skills, and who are engaged in volunteer work in their communities. In Seattle, the participants met with community members and organizations to discuss topics of multicultural and socioeconomic diversity, youth leadership, corporate social responsibility, and civic participation.

## **Selected Upcoming Programs**

- World Citizen Essay Contest (deadline March 27) – spread the word and sign up now to volunteer as a judge!
- Turkey Educators Tour (application deadline April 1) – spread the word and sign up now to volunteer as a judge!
- Afghanistan on our Minds and in the Classroom (Educator Workshop, February 25th)
- Turkey: Searching for a Cultural Center (Educator Workshop, March 10th)

For more information, please visit [www.world-affairs.org](http://www.world-affairs.org), or contact Tese Wintz Neighbor, Senior Director of Professional Development, at [tneighbor@world-affairs.org](mailto:tneighbor@world-affairs.org) or 206-441-5910 ext. 307.