

Global Connections

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Making good on the promise of SST for everyone

BY JAN BENDER SHETLER,
DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

IN 2021-22, we birthed a new, post-COVID SST program with new forms that still deliver the same, time-honored outcomes, transforming student lives. Three groups spent a semester abroad in Ecuador and one went to Senegal. Another semester-long group split their time between an Indonesian community in Philadelphia and Indonesia due to visa difficulties. Students seeking a shorter experience during May term or the summer could choose from six options.

All this was challenging with the tail of COVID-19 still whipping. It required navigating travel restrictions, locating time-sensitive testing and quarantining positive

cases on site. But what keeps us motivated is that the vision set out in 2018-19 during the SST 50th anniversary year is taking shape: experiential, immersive, community-engaged, intercultural learning is becoming accessible for all of our students. We are adapting SST to the needs of a diverse student body, all of whom will benefit from the chance to form authentic intercultural relationships and to understand the impact of global systems on local lives. We have been working toward this goal in multiple ways.

SST SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Alumni who wish to support GC's SST program now have three options: the SST annual fund, an endowment fund and our new SST scholarship fund for students with financial need. Over 40% of our students are commuters at present, and many in this group find the added room and board

costs that a semester off campus requires challenging. We hope that the new SST scholarship fund will provide a broader range of choices for our commuter students and others whose finances limit them.

NEW SEQUENTIAL CURRICULUM

In October, the faculty voted to do away with SST-Alt, which requires students who do not spend a semester on SST to take four unrelated globally themed courses on campus. The alternative will now be a sequence of four courses, two of which must be immersive and intercultural. Beginning with the class of 2022-23, students pursuing sequential SST will begin with a Foundations course on campus that will introduce them to a place or theme. They will then complete two immersive intercultural courses, one for study (Cultural Perspectives) and one for service (Community Engaged Learning). Most immersive courses spend three and a half weeks off campus in either a domestic location or abroad, but there are also Goshen-based options for students who can't travel. The capstone course, Global Issues, takes place back on campus again. Learning goals are the same as they are for semesters abroad.

This sequential model is more manageable for many of our students. For commuters, it is easier to add room and board costs for a few weeks than it is to pay them for a whole semester. A shorter period of travel also helps those who must work while in school or whose families depend on them for babysitting or other tasks.

Sequential SST courses are arranged around themes designed to appeal to students. A



Estefania Soto, class of 2025, celebrates a raffle win at the Latinx student and parent breakfast April 23. Her mother, Claudia Zuniga, is also pictured. The event, offered in Spanish, gave local families a chance to learn about the SST program.

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May 2022-23 course in Puerto Rico in a series on the theme, Hispanic Identities and Resilience filled up immediately. A theme such as Public Health and Global Inequality adds value to particular majors. Other themes include Environmental Justice, Migration and Transnational Identity, Interreligious Relations and The Global Heartland.

OUTREACH TO LATINX STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

In 2021, Goshen College was awarded a \$35,000 IDEAS grant from the State Department to increase the diversity of students in our global education programs. This enabled us to take on a number of initiatives we hope will increase participation of students who are underrepresented in study abroad programs, including students of color, Latinx students, low income students and first generation college students.

During the 21-22 school year, we hired several Latinx students who had been on SST or had comparable experience to serve as Global Citizen Ambassadors to their peers. They answered questions and prepared outreach events. One of these

was a Saturday brunch where local Latinx students and their parents could learn more about SST. All content was in Spanish, including presentations by Latinx mothers about what it was like to send a student abroad.

The IDEAS grant also enabled us to send a group of faculty to Ecuador for a week in early June. Faculty who had never been on SST and whose roles placed them in contact with many underrepresented students were chosen. In order to understand what SST is like for students, the faculty joined SST activities in Quito and on an extended field trip to Otavalo. They also met the local coordinator, a few host families and representatives of partner organizations.

Preliminary data shows that our efforts are working. While the number of underrepresented students currently signing up for semester SST abroad remains well below the percentage of these students at GC, domestic and short term courses are proving attractive even though they are not yet required for graduation. We hope that the new SST scholarship fund will enable even more participation and provide a broader range of choices for underrepresented students. 🌍



Six GC faculty members participated in an SST trip to Ecuador this June. The purpose was to enable campus leaders to understand the SST experience so they are better able to advise students and support the program. Above left to right: Kléver Guevara (local SST coordinator), **Roz Woll** (music), **Rocio Diaz** (community engagement), **Lauren Ford** (athletic coach), **Ann Vendrely** (academic dean), **Cristóbal González** (Spanish) and **Andrew Hartzler** (accounting) who led the group.

UPCOMING SST UNITS & LEADERS

SST SEMESTERS, 2022-2023

Ecuador with Andrew and Ruth Hartzler
Navajo and Hopi Nations with Jerrell Richer and Jane Ross Richer. Six weeks in Arizona following a May term on campus and online course.

Tanzania with Ryan and Donna Sensenig.

SHORT TERM SST: MAY TERM

Israel-Palestine with Breanna Nickel

Puerto Rico with Terry Martin

Chicago and Elkhart County with Philipp Gollner

A disaster site in the U.S. with Kendra Yoder

SST SCHOLARSHIPS

GILMAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Orlando Aguirre-Mulato, a sophomore molecular biology and biochemistry major from Shelbyville, Indiana; for Ecuador.

Courtney Templeton, a junior film production major from St. Louis, Missouri; for Indonesia.

Brandon Jimenez, a junior peace, justice and conflict studies major from Wellman, Iowa; for Senegal.

Suzanna Yoder, a junior social work major from Wellman, Iowa; for Senegal.

FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIP

Mackenzie Miller, a 2021 GC graduate who is pursuing a master's degree in ethnic relations and culture. She will study at National Dong Hwa University in Hualien, Taiwan.

THE SST OFFICE

Jan Bender Shetler
Director of Global Engagement

Jennifer Schrock
Administrative Assistant for SST

THE SST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Erica Albertin, *Director of Athletics*

Rocio Diaz, *Director for Community Engagement and Adult Outreach*

Keith Graber Miller, *retired Professor of Bible, Religion & Philosophy*

Scott Hochstetler, *Professor of Music*

Jan Kauffman, *Registrar*

Kathy Meyer Reimer, *Professor of Education*

Beth Miller, *Associate Professor of Nursing*

Gilberto Perez, *Vice President for Student Life*

Ann Vendrely, *Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean*

Short term SST attracts a broad range of students

Each of our short term courses has a blog. Read them at gothen.edu/blogs

New short-term immersive SST options attracted a lot of attention this year, with 123 participants. Short term courses run during May Term or the summer and can be combined with a sequence of other courses for a thematically unified SST experience.

Ecological Economics in Arizona, a Cultural Perspectives course, was a pilot program designed for our cross-country and track teams. Many of our athletes find it difficult to take a semester away from the team, so we brought SST to them through a summer course that fit their schedule. The course was heavy on hiking as well as economics.

“If there is one thing this trip has taught me so far, it would be to explore: to explore nature and to explore the system we are all caught up in.”

—Naomi Ross Richer,
deaf studies, class of 2024, Ecological
Economics in Arizona, May term 2022

Ecology and Sustainability in the Indian Himalaya, a Cultural Perspectives course that included a four-day mountain trek was well-attended. Five students stayed for a second course that involved service in environmental and social non-profit agencies in Northern India.

“[My host mother] talked to us about life in Indonesia all the time, and so I really felt prepared to travel there. Many times in Indonesia, I knew what to do or say because Wendy had talked to us about it while we were in Philly.”

—Caroline Robling-Griest,
biochemistry, class of 2023, Indonesia SST
split semester, spring 2022

Environmental Disaster and Response, a Community Engaged Learning course (service) took place at a Mennonite Disaster Service site in McAllen, Texas. Students worked with La Posada, an emergency shelter for recent immigrants, learning about the humanitarian crisis at the border. Read their blog in both Spanish and English.

Fictions of Empire, a Cultural Perspectives course, experienced London through a lens many tourists lack. With help from GC alum Ellah Wakatamah Allfrey, an editor, and British-Punjabi poet, Daljit Nagra, students looked at the literature of diaspora groups from the colonies.

Youth and Resilience in Guatemala, a Cultural Perspectives course, was our first SST course in this country. Students studied social movements led by youth. Other features included a host family stay and a tour of Mayan ruins.

From Chicago to Amish Country, a Cultural Perspectives course, encountered regional immigrant groups such as the Amish and Irish. With the

“Not only are there injustices in Guatemala, but also in the US. Seeing how women have made such an impact in a machista country really shows me that I can use my voice to address the topics I feel strongly about, but I have not felt I could do something about it until now.”

—Nancy Salgado,
nursing, class of 2023, Youth and
Resistance in Guatemala, May Term 2022

help of the Chicago Center for Urban Life and Culture, the group also spent three days in Chicago exploring immigrant neighborhoods. 🌍

Indonesia SSTers pilot a split semester

During spring semester, our Indonesia SSTers spent six weeks in Philadelphia with an Indonesian community followed by six weeks at service placements in Indonesia.

This was by necessity, not choice: COVID's stubborn persistence postponed our ability to obtain visas for our students. Planning for meaningful experiences amidst uncertainty required dogged determination. At one point, Director of Global Engagement Jan Shetler was researching options in three countries and four locations.

We are grateful to the Philadelphia Praise Center, an Indonesian Mennonite congregation in South Philadelphia, who graciously hosted our students at a time when hospitality required some health risks. Pastor Aldo Siahaan and Kristen Prasetyo Utomo were particularly helpful.

While we hope we never have to reroute an SST unit this way again, we are intrigued by the opportunity students had to experience both an international setting and a related immigrant community in the U.S. GEO may try split semesters again! 🌍



SSTers celebrated the Chinese New Year (February 1) with their Indonesian host families in Philadelphia.

INTRODUCING THE SST SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The new SST scholarships are an important part of GC's strategic priorities. The purpose is to provide aid based on demonstrated financial need for students who have traditionally not been able to participate in SST programming. Eligible students include commuter students, students of color, international students and others with financial need.

To learn more, contact advancement@goshen.edu or call 574-535-7564.



May term SST in Goshen: Chicago to Amish Country

Philipp Gollner's class, From Chicago to Amish Country, opened students' eyes to the wide range of communities within easy reach of Goshen College. Above, Erick Martinez, class of 2022, tries on Indian clothing at Sahel, an Indian shop on Devon Avenue in Chicago. The group discussed the role of clothing in preserving identity.

Global Engagement beyond SST

Formerly, our department was known as the International Education Office. Last year, we changed our name to the Global Engagement Office to better represent the breadth of our work, which is not limited to the SST program. Here are two other ways we encourage global citizenship:

THEOLOGY IN GUATEMALA

This June marked the fourth and final year of the Study Service Theology Term—a program for high school students funded by a Lily Grant. Keith Graber Miller, a professor of Bible, Religion and Philosophy, accompanied 24 students to Guatemala City where they spent two weeks at SEMILLA, a Latin American Anabaptist Seminary. One memorable day included meeting women from a weaving cooperative; learning how chocolate is processed and visiting a Peace Park dedicated to the memory of 13 people killed in a massacre in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, in 1990.

"SSTT was incredibly influential in my decision to come to Goshen College and study peace, justice and conflict studies," observed Cade Fisher, class of 2022. "I realized that if these were the kind of people Goshen attracts, these are the professors,

these are the classes and experiences that I would have, then GC was where I wanted to be."



VISITING GLOBAL SCHOLAR

During fall semester 2021-2022, the Global Engagement Office hosted Endah Setyowati, a faculty member from the Duta Wacana Christian University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Endah taught the language course for our SSTers headed to Indonesia, as well as a course for the Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies department. In November, she gave a Yoder Public Affairs lecture on women and peacebuilding in Indonesia.

Upon returning home, she was part of the team delivering remote language study for our students in Philadelphia. After they arrived in Indonesia, she served as a host mother. 🌍