

METROVIEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF METRO INTERNATIONAL

what's inside this issue?

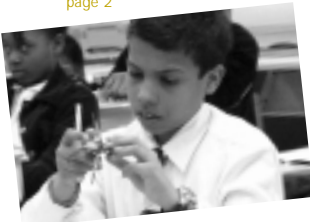
2 Global Classroom Provides a Unique Learning Experience

3 2002 Fulbright Awards Dinner Celebrates Metro's 25th Anniversary

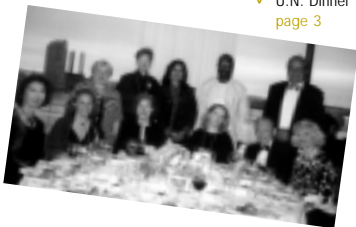
4 D.C. Fulbrighters and their Families ♥ NY

> Brooklyn middle school students and families gather with international students after a scavenger hunt at the Brooklyn Museum as part of Metro's Global Classroom in the Community program.

√ Culture in the Classroom page 2



√ U.N. Dinner page 3



√ I ♥ NY Weekend page 4



Schoolchildren Use Global Classroom to Understand a Complicated World



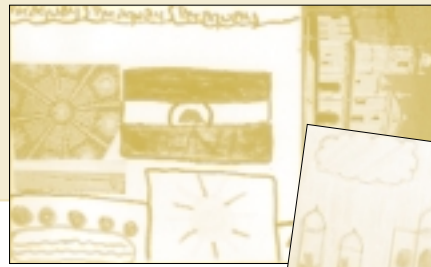
"Students wondered if there were animals in the streets of São Paulo until I showed them a picture of its bright lights and skyscrapers!" says Marcos Mauricio Toba, a visiting Fulbright scholar from Brazil and a presenter for Metro International's new Global Classroom in the Community program.

With funding from The Henry Luce Foundation, Metro expanded its longstanding Global Classroom program this past year in two Brooklyn middle schools, Satellite III Academy and Satellite West Academy. The program's new structure featured 16 presentations by international students and Fulbright scholars from Brazil, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, India, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Paraguay, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe. Their combined contributions to the classroom shaped a significant portion of the social studies curriculum for more than 130 students aged 11 through 14.

"We intensified Global Classroom by adding more visits per school, developing deeper relationships with teachers, and adding a new community component," says Susan Hackett Noori, Metro's Director of Global Classroom. Integrating international perspectives into the regular curriculum at both Brooklyn schools enabled children to gain first-hand knowledge of global cultures and history.

Toba recalls students asking "How come you look Japanese if you're from Brazil?" and the discussion this provoked about immigration and cultural diversity. He says "the students were eager to participate and asked intelligent questions. They even danced with me to the sounds of Brazilian bossa nova and samba!" Following speaker visits, students tracked their "journeys" in their copies of the new "Global Classroom

[continued on page 2]



Schoolchildren render the Global Classroom experience visually, communicating an increased understanding of distant places through postcards of their own design.



I think more people should learn about other countries because it is important to know the history and culture of other countries. Maybe it would encourage people to go to the country one day, and think differently about the country's people.

Schoolchildren Use Global Classroom to Understand a Complicated World

[continued from page 1]

Passport,” a handsome green booklet that features each student’s artistic and written impressions of the countries presented, along with his or her photo, school and birthplace.

In addition to recording population statistics and sketching brightly colored national flags and emblems, students used their passports to process their understanding of recent global conflicts. Amid the facts and figures, one finds sixth- and seventh-graders’ confounded responses to war, injustice, and hypocrisy. Their strongest reactions were inspired by presentations on the causes and consequences of war, particularly the Holocaust and atomic blasts on Japan, which students looked at through the lens of their own experience of September 11. Speakers also confronted similar issues. Adrian Seufert, a Fulbrighter in political science, says, “I was happy to have been able to convey an image of Germany as a modern and tolerant country, but one well aware of its history.”

Other responses communicate students’ desire to feel connected with kids and grown ups from other countries. Crystal, an eighth grader from Satellite III writes, “The best part for me was the fact that Amanda” — Global Classroom presenter and international scholar from Trinidad and Tobago — “was from where I am from.” A sixth grader from Satellite

West Academy, Rena, found it easy to imagine herself in a long line waiting to vote for the first time in South Africa. “When the presenter explained the weather and the conversations with all the noise, I could almost feel as if I were there.”

Global Classroom in the Community served an added purpose of facilitating more meaningful interactions between international students and scholars and other members of the community. Metro designed joint enrichment activities with Brooklyn pupils and their families, creating opportunities for cross-cultural, as well as cross-generational, dialogue. Guided tours of the Brooklyn Public Library, the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, and the Brooklyn Museum enhanced visiting scholars’ familiarity with New York City, while showing the Brooklyn students and their families the global reach of institutions in their own neighborhood.

The program culminated in a year-end event in Bedford-Stuyvesant, where Metro staff, schoolchildren, teachers, principals, and international students and scholars gathered to celebrate Global Classroom’s positive year-long impact. Dr. Lester W. Young, Jr., Superintendent of Community School District 13 in Brooklyn, commended participants, observing that “In Global Classroom, children can gain insight and a greater appreciation that being different is not synonymous with being deficient.”

The Henry Luce Foundation grant, the largest in Metro’s history, extends for one more year. Metro looks forward to building on the many successes of last year as Global Classroom in the Community returns to Brooklyn schools this fall, giving local schoolchildren an opportunity to deal with the heart of history as they discover new ways of healing and cultivating global community.

▼ Brenda Cegla, an undergraduate student at LIU, answers a student’s questions about the geography of her home country, Paraguay.



➤ Noriko Ishiyama, a Japanese Fulbrighter at Rutgers, introduces herself and her family to 6th graders at Satellite West as she begins her presentation on World War II through the words of Japanese children.



Fulbright Awards Dinner Recognizes International Achievement & Global Connections



If the United States expects to have anywhere near the level of respect, friendship, and understanding with the Islamic nations that we now enjoy with Germany and Japan — now celebrating the 50th anniversaries of their Fulbright programs — we're going to have to make a much greater investment in the Fulbright program... and have armies of peaceful Fulbrighters throughout the world with their weapons of education, their interest in other people and cultures, and their legacy of mutual understanding and respect.

— Caroline Matano Yang, Chair, J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board



You have to know many countries, you have to know many cultures, you have to understand how it all hangs together. And this means we all have to understand and master complexity. I think the most important thing that we can develop in this world is cultural bandwidth, the ability to deal across a number of cultures, a number of languages... to walk into a room of Dutch and Argentines and Saudis and Filipinos and know how to make them come together in a common cause.

— Victor J. Menezes,
Chairman and CEO, Citibank. N.A.

Metro International friends and supporters braved a torrential downpour of rain to come out for the 2002 Fulbright Awards Dinner held at the United Nations on May 13. Metro used the occasion to mark its 25th anniversary and to honor Caroline Matano Yang, Washington SyCip, and Victor J. Menezes (who dubbed the event “the first monsoon black tie in New York!”).

This year's dinner was Metro's most successful fundraising event ever, thanks to the efforts of an outstanding team of co-chairs: Reuben Mark, Chairman and CEO, Colgate-Palmolive Company; The Honorable Frank G. Wisner, Vice Chairman, American International Group; Toru Hashimoto, Former Chairman, The Fuji Bank Ltd.; Dr. Alice Stone Ilchman, President Emerita, Sarah Lawrence College; and Robert J. Brennan, President and CEO, American Institute for Foreign Study.

Members of the Metro Board of Directors, Dr. David Caputo and Robert Brennan spoke at the event, along with Metro's board chair, Andrea Nemetz; Harriet Mayor Fulbright; and three visiting Fulbright scholars and award presenters: Femi Okiremuete Shaka from Nigeria, Sabine Sandberger from Austria, and Aysecan Terzioğlu from Turkey.

Speakers shared personal experiences and powerful observations about the importance of fostering global connections and relationships:

This 25th anniversary year has been a momentous and a challenging one for Metro International. The American public is paying attention to the fact that what happens in other countries affects our destiny. Those who have never contributed to Metro before have come forward this year to say they want to help. More colleges and universities have become Metro members. More New Yorkers are offering to host international students in their homes and businesses. More public schools are requesting international presentations by our student speakers. The students and scholars we serve have benefited greatly from this surge of commitment and resources. At this 25 year milestone, it is heartening but also sobering to see that our work is at once more valued and more necessary than ever.

— Margaret Shiba, Executive Director, Metro International



The greatest strength of the United States is not its high technology or its wonderful people, but that it is the largest English speaking country in the world. English now is the second language of each country, and because of this, students from all over the world come to America. When students from all parts of the globe get together, they come to understand each other. These students will certainly diminish the cancers of misunderstanding and change any negative attitudes they may have when they receive the wise counsel, hospitality, and assistance of Metro International.

— Washington SyCip, Founder, The SGV Group



Metro shows D.C. Fulbright Scholars

The Big Apple



Metro International's first ever "I ♥ New York Weekend" for visiting Fulbright scholars and their families based in Washington, D.C., brought out this city's best and brightest qualities: its history, its legacy, a couple of celebrities, and some really good food.

Scheduled for March 2002, when tourism in New York City was down, the program reciprocated a similar weekend hosted in Washington, D.C. for New York-area Fulbright scholars in the spring of 2001. Special funding from the Department of State enabled Metro to pull out all the stops and give scholars from 17 countries a unique NYC experience.

Here are a few highlights:

First: The group of 41 scholars and family members toured the United Nations and got an insider's look at the workings of international diplomacy.

Next: They met their NY counterparts and friends of Metro at a reception at The New-York Historical Society, where President Kenneth T. Jackson (editor of *The Encyclopedia of New York City* and two-time Fulbrighter) wowed them with New York stories and introduced them to the museum's exhibits.



Then: The group toured New York City with an architectural historian and then got off at Ground Zero, where Fulbright alumnus and NYPD Captain Jimmy Albrecht met with them and spoke about his personal experiences on September 11.

Later: Everyone saw "Sweet Smell of Success," the new Broadway musical starring John Lithgow, another former Fulbrighter. Lithgow spoke about the impact of his own Fulbright on his acting career and was surprised to learn from the teenage daughter of one scholar that "3rd Rock From the Sun" is a huge hit in Uzbekistan.

To top it off:

The group spent Sunday morning touring Harlem and ate a soul food lunch at Sylvia's Restaurant before heading back to Washington.

Metro and NYC complemented one another beautifully during this eventful weekend that showcased Metro's ingenuity and great access to all that the City has to offer.



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MetroViews is a semiannual publication of
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opportunities for students, educators, and the
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