

Wilfrid Laurier University Global Citizenship Conference



Fostering Responsibility



Final Report 2007



Thank You from the Coordination Team

The GCC 2007 Coordination Team would like to give a big thank you to all those who made this conference a reality. To all those who sponsored and supported the conference and all those who attended – thank you.

From March 9th to 11th 2007, Wilfrid Laurier University hosted its first Global Citizenship Conference. This report focuses on the event, the concept behind the conference, the goal which was set out and the impact we are now evaluating in the organization of the second annual conference – March 7th to 9th, 2008

We are very proud of this conference and the fact it was run entirely by Laurier students – with financial support from the University and CIGI. This conference represents another important step in the evolution of the concept of Global Citizenship and the Social Justice Movement.

We hope you will enjoy this report and thank you for the continued support.

-GCC Coordination Team



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Mission Statement

The Wilfrid Laurier University Global Citizenship Conference (GCC) provides an educational experience for the conference delegate and seeks to create and continue a dialogue about the contemporary challenges we are and will be facing as Global Citizens. Through providing an open forum, comprised of varying points of view, the GCC promotes students and community members to be engaged, empowered and proactive toward a more sustainable future both locally, nationally and internationally.

Vision

To empower students to become active citizens of change by fostering responsibility across local, national and international settings.

Our Goal

To facilitate a three-day conference which will be held each academic year during the month of March.



The Global Citizenship Initiative

After the success of McMaster's Global Citizenship Conference in March 2006, the three co-chairs Boris Martin, Heidi Carrubba and Natalie Rouskov formed the Global Citizenship Initiative (GCI). Through the support of the GCI, who has been an integral partner, Laurier's Global Citizenship Conference became a reality. The GCI's Mission Statement:

To make Canada the most Globally Conscious Country by:

- a) providing education/ knowledge/ awareness**
- b) being a source of motivation and inspiration**
- c) promoting the action/tools to become involved**

The Global Citizenship Conference

A key aspect of the Global Citizenship Conference is sustainability here at Laurier and provincial and national expansion in the form of other such conferences coupled with the support and training from the GCI and LSPIRG. In 2008, there will be three Global Citizenship Conferences held at: Wilfrid Laurier University, McMaster University and now Carleton University. This is an indication that there is tremendous potential for the idea and concept of a Global Citizenship Conference at Laurier and in Canada.



Plan of Action

The 2007 Global Citizenship Conference was only the beginning of what will be an annual event at Wilfrid Laurier. Currently the WLU Global Citizenship Conference is operating within a framework of three phases from 2007 to 2009:

2007: Kick-Off

- **Introductory Year**
- **Inspire awareness, education and action**
- **Create a buzz on Campus about the possibilities of Global Citizenship**
- **Hosted Conference, March 9th to 11th, 2007: Fostering Responsibility**

2008: Expansion Year

- **Canadian Theme**
- **Reach-out further to Kitchener-Waterloo Community**
- **Further the establishment of a foundation at Laurier and within the Century Plan**
- **More delegates, more contributors, more potential for a major annual event at Laurier**
- **Hosting Conference, March 7th to 9th, 2008: Canadian Contributions**

2009: Revision Period

- **Global Theme**
- **Measure more completely the impact of GCC 2007 and 2008 on Laurier's Campus**
- **Measure the effectiveness of the GCC at Laurier and within the K-W community**
- **Propose the Wilfrid Laurier Global Citizenship Conference become a major annual event on campus – with institutional backbone.**
- **To host a conference, March 2009.**



The Global Citizenship Conference: A Unique Experience

Student driven conference

- For students, by students

Interdisciplinary Focus

- Representation from all Faculties across campus and beyond.

Unique Format

- For all learning styles – with workshops, panel discussions, lectures, documentary films, artwork and interaction

Provoking Environment

- Use of a variety of mediums, topics and issues to sink your teeth into

Fully backed and supported by Wilfrid Laurier University

Tools for Involvement

- Provided students with avenues for real involvement through showcasing student clubs, campus initiatives, community organizations and various NGOs

Demand

- No event on campus with the magnitude and opportunity for improvement

Overwhelming Response from Students

- 250 delegates



The Demand

Dialogue is always necessary. In the information and digital ages it is important to create a forum whereby we can interact face to face and discuss the issues most pertinent to a more sustainable future locally, nationally and internationally.

Our Response

A comprehensive, educational and motivational conference.

What a Conference Does:

- Focuses on a theme for a concentrated period of time
- Gathers a large number of people together who are interested in similar issues; with varying viewpoints
- Promotes educational sessions
- Allows for networking and social times and the sharing of best practices and experiences



The Topics

The first conference was designed around the premise of fostering responsibility, whereby we showcased our responsibility toward other humans on the planet.

Under the theme of Global Citizenship and Fostering Responsibility, the Global Citizenship Conference covered the broad topics in an interdisciplinary fashion: Trade, the Environment, Human Rights, Conflict and International Development

How?

The conference delegates received a balance approach to understanding these broader concepts and issues.

With 55 contributors and through a variety of panel discussions, lectures, and workshops, the conference delegates will build a strong understanding and strive to move the University learning experience beyond the traditional classroom and labs.

The learning experience was enriched through a variety of other mediums such as: art, documentaries, music and interaction.



Panel Discussions

Global Citizenship: Toward a Definition

Included:

Dr. Valerie Zawilski
Dr. Robin Lathangue
Heidi Carrubba

Crossroads for Planet Earth: Environmental Sustainability

Included:

Dr. Bob Gibson
Dr. Scott Slocombe

Mennonite Central Committee: Relief Work in Action

Included:

Stefan Cherry
Cath Woolner
Ron Mathies

Millennium Development Goals: The African Continent

Included:

Dr. Andrea Brown
Dr. Keith Child
Dr. John Laband

Glocal: From Local to Global Initiatives in Community Development

Included:

Dr. Jasmin Habib
Joe Mancini
Terry Fielder

Canadian Foreign Policy: Afghanistan as a Case Study

Included:

Dr. Geoffrey Hayes
Yar Taraky
Ian Heide

Regional Integration: A Comparative Evaluation

Included:

Dr. John McDougall
Dr. Ricardo Grinspun
Dr. Derek Hall

Global Governance: Toward a Global Community

Included:

Dr. Alistair Edgar
Dr. Loren King

Canadian Democracy: Evaluation and Prescriptions for the Future

Included:

Dr. Brian Tanguay
Dr. Liss Jeffrey
Derek Kraan



Workshops

Given by:

- **Save the Children, Canada**
- **WLU Community Service Learning**
- **Feminists without Borders**
- **Amnesty International, Canada**
- **War Child, Canada**
- **Global Voice Project**
- **Social, Inc.**
- **Humera Javed and Natalie Falcomer**
- **Project Ploughshares**
- **Career Services**
- **Journalists for Human Rights**
- **Dr. Adam Davidson-Harden and Dr. Colleen Loomis**
- **Hema Vyas**
- **Council of Canadians**
- **Peace for all International**
- **Sustainable Enterprise Resource Centre**
- **Ten Thousand Villages**
- **Toronto Zine Library**
- **Women's Centre**
- **The Global Citizenship Initiative**
- **Laurier Students Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG)**



Keynotes



Stephen Lewis

Charmed the packed Athletic Complex and ignited the spark which initiated the conference. Lewis's lecture addressed what he saw as the top five global issues in relation to what our Canadian government was doing to address them. He spoke of Darfur and Afghanistan, climate change and Canada's commitment to international development through 0.7 percent of our GDP and finally HIV/AIDS. This is the calibre of speaker the conference is trying to attract.



Dr. Rhoda Howard-Hassmann

Laurier professor and Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights, Dr. Rhoda Howard-Hassmann informed and delighted the audience as the conference's closing keynote speaker. Dr. Howard-Hassmann lectured on human rights in relation to Global Citizenship stating: "...some are guilty, all are responsible." Addressing the mainly student audience – Dr. Howard-Hassmann was able to leave on a positive note concerning these issues and offered advice to the youthful onlookers: "...avoid the seduction of nihilism and the trap of despair," when faced with these daunting issues.



The Experience

The Global Citizenship Experience was designed to inform students through other forms of education – highlighting culture, interaction and awareness.

The Global Marketplace of Ideas

The meeting place in-between sessions where delegates could network, discuss and trade ideas that they had just learned in their workshops and panel discussions. A variety of booths were set-up by campus clubs and organizations as well as NGOs to foster continued engagement and dialogue.

The Speak E-z Café

Filled with the aroma of fair trade coffee, the sounds of socially conscious musicians as well as a showcase of local artwork – the conference delegate was able to take a break, grab a coffee and enjoy the atmosphere at the conferences very own café.



The Experience

An Unorthodox Fashion Show: Panorama—Beauty without Borders

This socially progressive fashion show utilized the runway to defy stereotypes associated with female beauty and was able to artistically highlight the other kind of beauty within women – the beauty in their strength and perseverance while resisting oppression across the globe.

Food

Throughout the entirety of the conference we fed the delegates. From snack periods during the session breaks to lunch on Saturday and Sunday as well as a Global Hunger Banquet during dinner on Saturday showcasing food inequality – the delegate was nourished and energized during the conference.

Music

Music was also central to the conference. We hosted students from the Department of Music who played in-between sessions and sponsored an eclectic concert featuring some of Kitchener-Waterloo's best local talent.



Who was involved?

The GCC was designed to be as cross-curricular as possible in order to demonstrate the interconnectedness of the issues and topics discussed. Therefore, a variety of contributors, delegates and organizers took part at the conference.

Professors from:

- **The Department of Global Studies**
- **The Department of Contemporary Studies (Brantford)**
- **The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies**
- **The Department of Environment and Resource Studies (University of Waterloo)**
- **The Department of Political Science (WLU and UW)**
- **The Department of History (WLU and UW)**
- **The Department of Economics (York University)**
- **The Department of Communications Studies**



Who was involved?

Students and community members from:

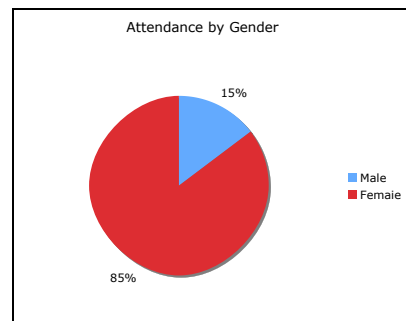
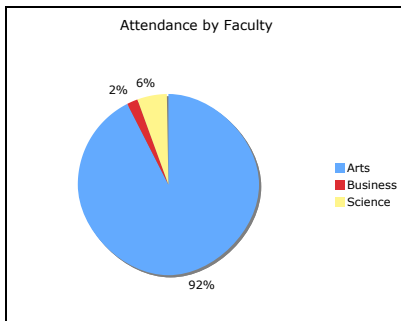
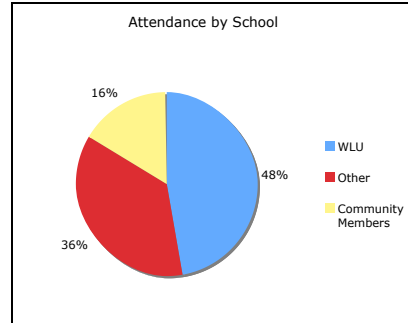
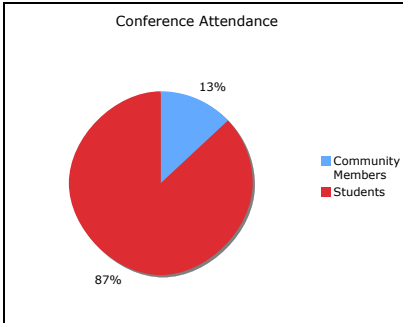
- **Community Service Learning**
- **Laurier Student Public Interest Research Group**
- **The Global Citizenship Initiative**
- **The Working Centre**
- **Pashtun Research Advocacy and Policy Centre Canada**
- **Feminists without Borders**
- **Global Voices Project**
- **Social Inc.**
- **Career Services**
- **Peace for All International**
- **Sustainable Enterprise Resource Centre**
- **Women's Centre**

Non-governmental organizations

- **World Accord**
- **Amnesty International, Canada**
- **Journalists for Human Rights**
- **Council of Canadians**
- **Project Ploughshares**
- **War Child, Canada**
- **Save the Children, Canada**
- **The Mennonite Central Committee**



Delegate Demographics (250 Delegates)



Attendance by Department

Contemporary/Global Studies: 42.5%
History: 7.4%
Business: 1.8%
Women's Studies: 5.5%
Sociology: 3.7%
Political Science: 14.8%
Education: 1.8%

English: 5.5%
Psychology: 3.7%
Anthropology: 3.7%
Kinesiology: 3.7%
Criminology: 5.5%
Communications: 1.8%
Philosophy: 1.8%
Math: 3.7%

Geography: 1.8%
Biology: 1.8%
Philosophy, Political Science, Economics: 3.7%
Concurrent Education: 7.4%



Recognition

“I think that the Conference that you brought about this past month was one of the most significant student-lead initiatives in the past five years. You demonstrated that students from across the campus could create and run a very large program dedicated to urgent issues on the global stage. I was impressed by the turnout at the various sessions, the work of the volunteers, and the obvious engagement of students from Laurier and well beyond. I hope that we can find a way to institutionalize this initiative so that it can live on well after you’ve (the GCC Team 2007) moved on.”

Dr. Leonard Friesen

Department of Global Studies Chair (2002-2007)

Associate History Professor

“The Global Citizenship Conference informed students to make a difference by not only exercising their right to vote, but also that is their responsibility to ensure that they are informed, that they know what they are voting for.”

Keith McManamen

UW Imprint Reporter

16 March 2007

“...more than just being a well-organized and well-attended event, the GCC serves a fine example of the type of events that should be held at an academic institution. The panels explored abstract concepts and featured different points of view, all helping to create an enlightening and thought provoking environment for the attending delegates...Not only does it speak to Waterloo’s increasing role on the international stage, but it also encourages more events of a similar nature...The organizers of the Global Citizenship Conference should be proud of what they accomplished – a well organized and well-attended event that sparked interest, fostered debate and informed attendees.”

“GCC a Success”

The Cord Weekly

14 March 2007



Improvements

From the Delegate Perspective

- More advertising on Campus
- More partnerships within the school and its student organizations
- Encourage more faculties and faculty to be involved
- Encourage more involvement of community members and high school students
- Improve environmental sustainability, there was too much garbage
- Offer more fair trade products
- Showcase more NGOs in the form of booths in the Marketplace of Ideas
- Create a better and more informative website
- Concentrate on professionalism and the overall experience of the conference
- Ensure a better registration process through the website and the day of the conference.



Impact Analysis

On the Conference Delegates:

One of the goals of the conference was education. The survey's indicated that the delegates received an outstanding educational experience outside of the classroom through a variety of panel discussions, workshops, lectures, art work, documentaries and keynote speakers.

Through Engagement:

Along with the workshops, with their focus on hands-on learning, the Global Marketplace for Ideas in the Science Atrium was a central area for the delegates to network and discuss the issues further between sessions.

With Continuity:

The delegate input was paramount. The surveys distributed to the delegates will be used to improve GCC 2008. Not to mention that the Global Citizenship Conference has now extended from McMaster to Laurier and now to Carleton in 2008.



Sponsors

PATRON

Arts Students Advancement Program (ASAP)

PARTNER

Alumni Partners in Excellence Program

SUPPORTER

Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP)

**Dr. Robert Rosehart, President and Vice-Chancellor,
Wilfrid Laurier University**

**David McMurray, Dean of Students, Wilfrid Laurier
University**

Alumni Student Horizons Fund

Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI)

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Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union

Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union Grant Fund

Global Citizenship Initiative (GCI)

Laurier Students Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG)



Budget

Revenues

Registration	\$6480.00
Sponsorship	\$8000.00
Grants	\$8233.92
Total*	\$22 713.92

Expenses

Food	\$8233.92
Administration	\$6164.96
Speakers	\$2032.90
Entertainment	\$854.90
Total*	\$17 285.93

* Surplus exists due to savings incurred on the Stephen Lewis lecture through co-ordination with LSPIRG



Be engaged, be empowered, be proactive!



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