

CCPB Annual Review (2022-23)

Drafted by Daniel R Brunstetter on June 14, 2023

In this academic year, UCI slowly returned to the pre-pandemic "normal", with restrictions steadily being lifted and more events being held "in person". The Fall quarter was complicated by the TA strike.

Daniel Brunstetter took over the Center's Directorship from David Snow. His vision can be summed up in the phrase "Think global, look local", meaning that we as peacebuilders should develop and work on peacebuilding activities wherever we call local in the world.

Two new board members were recruited: Chace Warmington (who has a long-standing connection with UCI and the local peacebuilding community) and Rebeca Tuhus-Dubrow (a freelance journalist deeply concerned by environmental issues).

The Center continued its support of undergraduate peacebuilders, providing funding and mentoring for the SGP student club. In addition, the Center sponsored an undergraduate fellowship. Three student projects were funded [Kaine Turay, Natalie Ringdahl, Karatas Zeynep]. Two students [Anna Palmer, Connor Anderson] received funding to attend a dialogue and peacebuilding conference held at Kent State University, run by former Kugelman fellow and UCI alumnus, Dr. Johanna Solomon. The Certificate in Conflict and Conflict Resolution was awarded to seven graduating seniors [Sara Zahed, Connor Anderson, Noel Angm Cheng Kai, Caleb Wensloff, Adam Hansen, Kaine Turay, Tara Kavasseri]. Five students mentored by the Center attended the Soka University nuclear disarmament camp in June [Elias Artiega, Anna Palmer, Berenice Ramirez, Gloria Baroi, Noel Angm Cheng Kai]

The Center continued its support for graduate students through the Kugelman fellowship. Last year's nine fellows [Kristen Elizabeth Aanstoos, Tauhid Sayeed Bin Kashem, Alice Chen, Nasim Fekrat, Prince Paa-Kwesi Heto, Angie Belen Monreal, Seyfullah Ozkurt, Muhammad Abdur Raqib, Tenzing Wangdak] presented their research in five minute "elevator pitches" at the Kugelman's home. The talks were attended by hand selected undergraduate students who contributed to lively roundtable discussions. This year, the center received twenty-one applications, and funded twelve [continuing funding: Kristen Aanstoos, Tauhid Bin Kashen, Tenzing Wandak, Semassa Boko, Muhammad Raqib | newly funded: MacKenzie Bonner, Pascal Dafinis, Hanna Dosenko, Alexis Jenson, Kaitlyn Rabach, Maria Liliana Ramirez, Anibal Serrano].

The Center launched a pilot program to offer seed grants for faculty. 2 applications were received; one project was funded [Associate Professor Long Bui from Global and International Studies].

The Center hosted numerous events, some on zoom, others in person. These included: the Hal Smith lecture series featuring Ambassador Jack Matlock and Nadezhda Azhgikhina, a prominent Russian journalist engaged since the 1990s in U.S.-Russia academic dialogues. The Center sponsored a dialogue program related to the Russia-Ukraine war in partnership with George Mason University's Center for Peacemaking Practice in the Carter School for Peace and Conflict. Meetings were held on zoom, in New York, Washington, D.C., and southern California. Presentations were made in UCI classes on conflict resolution.

Finally, planning for new initiatives and events is underway. These include outreach to: Golden West College to share best practices, UCI faculty for affiliation with the Center, Soka University regarding nuclear disarmament, and the Armenian community for an event honor the Armenian French resistance member Missak Manouchian.