

Andres Angel '10 came to Claremont McKenna from Bogotá, Colombia, searching for new experiences. He had no idea that during his junior year he would travel to Durban, South Africa, to participate in a reconciliation and development program focused on issues of racial and gender-based discrimination.

“At one point, I accompanied a previously exiled youth leader from the African National Congress to the funeral of Billy Nair, a renowned figure in the struggle for democracy,” Andres recalls. “It was a politically significant and emotionally moving occasion.”

For me, Andres' story captures one of CMC's priorities: creating transforming opportunities that allow our students to become more aware of the world—and the history, politics, and culture of particular countries—during their time at the College. Through a broad range of efforts, we prepare our students and engage our faculty to address the complexities of an interconnected world.

More than half of CMC students participate in either semester or year-long study abroad programs. Their travels span the globe—from Hong Kong to Israel, from Argentina to Tibet. Sometimes CMC students, like Andres, identify a cause or an interest and strike out on their own. We also have academic travel programs that allow students to travel with professors who serve as guides and mentors. For example, CMC students (typically in groups of 10-15) have researched the Holocaust in Poland and the Czech Republic; they have sharpened their French language skills in Quebec; and they have traveled to Northern India to study history, religious traditions, and economic development challenges. CMC's academic travel programs differ from study abroad and internship opportunities in significant ways. Generally, academic travel programs are related specifically to one or more CMC courses-in-progress, and they assist students in their research projects or senior theses.

Teaching our students to be effective global citizens also takes place here on the CMC campus. The admission office recruits students from around the world. With our location as a gateway to the Pacific Rim, we have been particularly successful in attracting students from Asia and South America. The presence of international students in a residential liberal arts college environment enhances the overall CMC experience for students inside and outside the classroom.

The Athenaeum also serves as a gateway for global ideas. Through the years, we have had presentations from a veritable *Who's Who* of international figures—novelist Salman Rushdie, human rights activist and Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi, Nobel laureate and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, Nobel laureate in literature Orhan Pamuk, and U.S. President Bill Clinton...the list goes on. Most recently, the Athenaeum welcomed Iranian-American journalist Roxanna Saberi, who has made headlines around the world. In the coming months, we will hear from Chinese dissident Gao Ertai and *Newsweek International* editor Fareed Zakaria, among others.

In my inaugural address on October 23, 1999, I commented on the importance of taking globalization seriously in educating young women and men today: “No college of our quality, ambition, and mission can ignore the impact of globalization. In particular, it should not be ignored by a college with a mission to educate leaders for business, the professions, and politics and public affairs.... This college is located in a global village, a palimpsest of neighborhoods gathering onto our shores the culture and languages of their homelands. We should work to capture this global village into our research, teaching, and the associative experiences of our students.... Our seal contains a map of the world. Let us more profoundly incorporate that vision into our mission.”

As we look ahead, I am confident that CMC students will continue to gain the knowledge, experiences, and inter-cultural competencies that they will need to thrive and adapt in a rapidly changing global environment. Andres Angel says that participating in “real life activities in an international context was an absolutely invaluable supplement to my CMC education. It is through international experience that we are able to develop a comprehensive understanding of our own society and its customs, opportunities, and challenges.”

I look forward to our continuing to develop our curriculum, co-curricular, and international opportunities for Andres and all the other students who choose to study at CMC.

