

CCPB Annual Review (2024-25)

Drafted by Daniel R. Brunstetter on June 6, 2025

The Center for Citizen Peacebuilding had a busy and exciting year, rich in activities. The year was, however, marked by personal loss, with the premature death of two founding members: Dr. Paula Garb, who passed away unexpectedly. And Hal Smith, who passed away at the age of 97.

The Center continued its support of undergraduate peacebuilders, providing funding and mentoring for the SGP [Students for Global Peace Building] student club who hosted many events. This year, SGP held a bookmarking-making activity day to support local libraries and volunteered at the OC Food Bank as part of our long-standing tradition of community involvement. The students continued to foster their role as an educational organization through student-led presentations on topics such as climate engineering's potential impacts on diplomacy and how legal definitions affect the plight of refugees. They also conducted simulation activities that saw high engagement from club members and visitors, including as a truth and reconciliation commission and a negotiation on housing refugees, using invented countries in order to respect the sensitivity of real conflicts. The Certificate in Conflict Resolution was awarded to eight graduating seniors [Daniela Alnajjar Fernandez, Kaylee Mia Meyers, Sofia Maldonado, Olivia Sirchio, Tae Yoon Kim, Ryahn Izhar Khan, Mary Reffit, and Nicole Cordova].

The Center continued its support for graduate students through the Kugelman fellowship. This year, the Center received twenty-five applications, funding eleven [newly funded: Angeles Rubi Castorena, Angie Belen Monreal, Gabriella Colello, Mohammad Siddiqui, Amy Gilmore, Udit Ghosh, Nasim Fekrat; continued funding: Hanna Dosenko, Muhammad Raqib, MacKenzie Bonner, Tenzing Wangdak].

The Center hosted and co-sponsored numerous events. Building on previous work on WWII resistance memory, the Center Director hosted (in partnership with the Mont Valerian Memorial in France) a one-day conference on post-war memorialization. An edited book based on the event is forthcoming. The two iterations of the Hal Smith lecture series featured the award-winning feminist scholar Manon Garcia from Freie Universität, Berlin and (co-sponsored with History and Literary Journalism) UC Berkeley's award-winning journalist Adam Hochschild. In partnership with UCI's political theory emphasis, the Center hosted former UCI undergraduate (now Associate Professor at the University of Amsterdam) Kevin Pham for a book talk. Finally, a memorial event was held in honor of Paula Garb.

The Center Director was co-PI on a \$10,000 grant to run a high school outreach program in partnership with UCI's History Project, the UCI Teacher Academy, and the Miner Anderson Family Foundation. The program, called the Community Conversations con Cake (C4!), brought together a diverse group of local educators to foster discussion and community building. The program included five in-person meetings held across the year with four facilitators and nine teachers, spanning middle and high school. The Foundation has renewed the grant for a second year.

In partnership with visiting assistant professor Daphne Inbar, the Center sponsored a peace simulation in her *Peace in the Middle East* (PolSci 149) class.