Rethinking GCSP at Olin: Student Narratives, Community Connections, and Global Context

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A GCSP Co-Curricular Experience

**Weekly meetings:** Each week all students are welcome to join the sessions, regardless of declared participation in the program. This raises awareness of and interest in the program; it also brings some benefits of GCSP to a wider range of students than just those declared program participants.

**Faculty and staff guest speakers:** On alternate weeks, invited guests from our faculty and staff talk with students about their work and their personal journeys leading them to the work they do. Our first guest speaker was President Miller talking about GCSP’s origin and its importance in educating the next generation of engineers.

**Workshops:** On the weeks between guest speakers we run workshops to help students work toward creating their culminating reflections. Some workshops focus on identifying and articulating personal passions, some on telling stories, and some on connecting personal passions to larger society.

GCSP @ Olin

**GCSP Elements**
- Community-Based Co-Curricular
- Faculty & Staff Mentorship
- Capstone Portfolio

**End-of-Year Soiree**
- Interesting Conversations
- Contextual Reflection

**GCSP Competencies**
- Research/Creative
- Social Consciousness
- Business/Entrepreneurship
- Multidisciplinary
- Multicultural

**Olin Curriculum**
1st year
- Modeling & Simulation
- User-Oriented Collaborative Design
- Olin Self-Study

2nd year
- Products & Markets
- Affordable Design & Entrepreneurship

3rd & 4th years
- Capstone Portfolio
- Contextual Reflection

Special thanks to the Teagle Foundation for funding continued development of our program.

GCSP @ Olin and the GCSP Competencies

Because the NAE’s five GCSP competencies are incorporated into Olin’s curriculum, our program works differently than most. Historically, Olin’s GCSP has focused on a final reflection essay tying together the experiences that meet the five GCSP competencies. Recently, the reflection medium was expanded to include any format of the student’s choice, including photography and video. Currently, we are creating additional programming to help students better understand the program’s philosophy and better connect their own experiences to the program’s goals.