



2023

## Szecsey Christopher- Callison College One Pager

Christopher Szecsey

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/callison-college-sis>

---

### Recommended Citation

Szecsey, Christopher, "Szecsey Christopher- Callison College One Pager" (2023). *Callison College and School of International Studies*. 27.

<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/callison-college-sis/27>

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access by the Colleges and Schools at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Callison College and School of International Studies by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [mgibney@pacific.edu](mailto:mgibney@pacific.edu).

## One UOP Student Journey to an International Career

Dear Prospective SIS Student,

My parents provided me with an exceptional educational opportunity in attending the University of the Pacific (UOP), with a focus on international and intercultural studies. I attended Callison College, with its focus on non-western studies and its requirement to study for one year in Asia. Callison College later morphed into what is now called the School for International Studies (SIS)/UOP. SIS continues the important tradition of preparing students to be globalists, to learn about, understand, and appreciate the world and importantly how to successfully engage as a global citizen. SIS offers the advantage of small classes and excellent student-professor ratios, with deep self-learning, while still having the advantages of being at a larger university. My own journey from a university student to an international professional reflects the critical importance of international studies as foundational for a successful international career. Here are some highlights of my own journey:

- During my sophomore year in India, the focus of my studies was Gandhian philosophy and nonviolent action as a means for positive community change.
- For the required senior thesis, I had the opportunity to work with Cesar Chavez and the farm workers union as an application of Gandhian nonviolent action and change in the USA context.
- Upon graduation from UOP, I served in the US Peace Corps for 3 years in Ecuador, to support resource poor indigenous communities in the Andes, and learn first-hand about international development through project management.
- After a few years back in the USA working with nonprofits, I then landed an assignment with the United Nations Development Program in Nepal, working in rural development.
- Next, I was hired as Country Director for an international development organization, Save the Children US, designing and leading regional development programs for 6 years in Indonesia and 3 years in the Central Pacific country of Kiribati.
- After 12 years working and living overseas, my family and I returned to the USA. I then became an international consultant. For the last 26 years, I have carried out over 50 international assignments in 49 countries around the world.
- My professional expertise is in consulting and training in a range of technical areas, always working as a cross-cultural team player. My assignments are with NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies, and government agencies. And decades later, I still apply what I learned from my university education which provide me a conceptual framework and practical skills for international work.
- Today, I am still consulting, these days with USA nonprofits, with a focus on multi-stakeholder collaboratives for shared goals, with diverse people and organizations.

What an exciting life journey, from my UOP student learning to a successful professional career. I very much still value and appreciate how my international, multi-disciplinary education at UOP launched me, and how that unique education opened-up a world of rewarding opportunities and work. I highly recommend SIS for any prospective student, seeking a unique and special opportunity to grow and learn, to become a professional globalist, and a competent professional to work with and in the world, across different countries and cultures, including with diverse people here in the USA.

*Discover the world and engage with it, through the **School for International Studies** for a life-affirming and career-enhancing opportunity!*

-Christopher Szecsey, UOP Callison Class of 1971