Orfalea Center Wraps Up Busy Year of Public Lectures and Events

The Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies has concluded its busy first year of programming, which included an aggressive schedule of conferences (see articles in this and the previous issue) and public events featuring an esteemed lineup of speakers.

Under the general rubric of the Global Lunch series, the Center held ten midday campus lectures, most of them in its new seminar room at Rob Gym. Setting the bar high from the start, the series was inaugurated in October with a talk on issues of U.S. diplomacy by former United States Ambassador Derek N. Shearer (“Beyond Bush: Rethinking America’s Role in the World”). Another former U.S. diplomat—among many prominent speakers—was former United States Under Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who discussed “The New World Order” in March.

Global Studies Wins Campus Competition

by Giles Gunn, Chair, Global & International Studies; Professor, English and Global & International Studies

On May 9, 2007, the Deans of Social Science and Humanities announced that Global and International Studies had won the competition for the establishment of four new endowed chairs. Named the Duncan and Suzanne Mellichamp Academic Initiative Professorships, they are intended by their benefactors to promote globalization studies on the campus through the creation a cluster of interdisciplinary professorships, two in the humanities and two in the social sciences, that center around the investigation of new subject area in the world of the global.

Global and International Studies’ proposal, entitled “Global Civil Society: Transforming the 21st Century” and was selected, according to the Deans, because of “the significance of its topical area of study, its intellectual coherence, the significant core of faculty that it could relate to in both divisions, and its ability to create a truly collaborative set of chairs whose presence would add up to more than the sum of their parts.”

New Faculty Appointments

by Giles Gunn

This year has seen the appointment of three new members of the faculty. The first is Esther Lezra who received her Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego in 2005 in Comparative Literature and will be joining us after two years as a prestigious President’s Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Dr. Lezra specializes in the multi-lingual (English, French, Spanish) transatlantic cultures of Europe, the Greater Caribbean, and North Africa. At present her research focuses on the movements, migrations, and displacements of racialized peoples, bodies, and narratives between the Americas, North Africa, and Europe from the eighteenth century to the twenty-first.

Our second new appointment is Aashish Mehta who received his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2004 and has been a development officer for the Asian Bank in Manila ever since. Dr. Mehta has already obtained valuable experience working with East and Central Asian countries and, as a political economist, is currently centering his research on the structure of economic activity and rising levels of education in Asia, the potential impacts of affirmative action proposals on India’s university system and related possible educational reforms in Indonesia, and regional and national economic monitoring in Asia.

Our third new appointment is of Francesca Degiuli who is presently completing her Ph.D. dissertation in Sociology at UCSB and has been awarded a highly esteemed Postdoctoral Fellowship which will allow her to teach half-time in Global and International Studies while simultaneously pursuing her individual research.
Go Global

Visiting Professorships
by Giles Gunn

The Global and International Studies Program was host during the past academic year to no less than six distinguished visiting professors. In the Fall quarter, Professor Walden Bello of the University of the Philippines in Manila, an internationally prominent political thinker and one of the leading social activists in the Global South, taught for us as well as for the Department of Sociology and the Program in Law and Society. During the Winter and Spring quarters, we were also fortunate to obtain another economist who has established an international reputation for her work on women, gender, and economics. Professor Mohanty, a Development Economist and Consultant to the Development Studies of India and China and his wife Dr. Bidyut Mohanty, a Development Economist and Consultant to the Women Studies Department at the Institute of Social Sciences in New Delhi. Professor Mohanty offered two courses for us, one at the graduate level and one at the undergraduate, and Dr. Mohanty offered a course in the undergraduate program.

Faculty Appointments
Continued from page 1

While we take great pride in each of these three appointments, which will bring us needed intellectual and pedagogical resources in important areas, we regret two departures. Our esteemed colleague, Professor Gurinder Singh Mann, who holds the Kapany Chair in Sikh and Punjab Studies, as well as Global and International Studies, has decided to move his position full-time into Religious Studies. At the same time, Professor Dominic Sachsenmaier, our highly valued younger colleague specializing in and helping develop the newly emergent field of global history, has decided to accept a position at Duke University.

Campus Competition
Continued from page 1

four chairs will be housed in different departments or combinations of departments, they will focus as a group on those transnational networks and patterns not directly linked to traditional governments and business organizations.

Global civil society thus refers to a sociocultural and political world that has been emerging for several centuries. In the language of the proposal, it simultaneously invokes the realm of “transnational culture, a sensibility of global awareness, and the emergence of new groups and entitles that thrive on a global plane.”

The four endowed chairs will be in transnational authority and global governance, global religions and modernisms, global media and representation, and transnational civil society networks. Professor Giles Gunn, Chair of Global Studies, has been asked to coordinate the search process and help oversee the development of this exciting cluster of professorships. There is every reason to believe that these distinguished new appointments, together with other intellectual resources both within and outside of the Global Studies program, will make UC Santa Barbara the nation’s leading center for the study of global civil society.
LAURIE HARRIS has been teaching at the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Engineering again this year, presenting both a colloquia on Sunita Narain and ethical issues surrounding water use in February and a course in ethical decision making for the environment. She was able to arrange a special meeting between the MAGIS students and Sunita Narain when Narain, winner of the 2005 Stockhold Water Prize, and CEO of India’s Center for Science and Environment was visiting at the Bren School this winter. Harris also co-taught the MAGIS seminar with Professor Appelbaum this winter.

This Spring, Visiting Lecturer, Laurie Harris is again teaching Global Business Ethics (GS 197) and Ethics Enterprise and Leadership, in the Department of Religious Studies (RS154). Each of these courses features occasional special guest speakers. Included in the Global Business Ethics course were international business consultant and former CEO of Aveda Marilyn Tam, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation David Krieger, Environmental Defense Center attorneys and other special guest speakers.

The Journal of Middle East Women's Studies is now edited by NANCY GALLAGHER, Chair, Middle East Studies program housed in Global and International Studies, UCSB and Sondra Hale, UCLA Professor of Anthropology and Women’s Studies, UCLA in an unusual intercampus collaboration that brought the journal from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor to the UC system. It is a four year appointment. (See article below.) Editor Nancy Gallagher is Professor of History, chair of the Middle East Studies Program, co-director of the Center for Middle East Studies at UC Santa Barbara, and past-president of AMEWS. Her book on Quakers in the Israel/Palestine Conflict is forthcoming on American University in Cairo Press in 2007, and she is working on a book entitled “Women in Islam: Human Rights and Activism,” to be published by Routledge.
Orfalea Center/UN University International Law Conference
by Victor Faessel and Richard Falk

In collaboration with the United Nations University, the Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies recently hosted a conference on the theme of “Legality and Legitimacy in the International Order” at UC Santa Barbara on April 27-28, 2007. The conference was part of a project originally conceived by Global Studies of issues that were widely debated in the context of the Kosovo War (1999) and the Iraq War (2003): first, the degree of flexibility associated with claims of humanitarian intervention, given the absence of UN Security Council authorization; and secondly, post-9/11 claims to engage in anticipatory self-defense in response to the perception of emergent security threats. The conference revisited these debates, but broadened the inquiry to encompass a wider set of international concern for which the distinction between legality (what international law appears to require) and legitimacy (what international morality encourages and what international politics supports). Papers dealt with the legality/legitimacy question from various jurisprudential, philosophical and historical perspectives and in relation to such tangible settings as international criminal courts, international environmental frameworks, nuclear non-proliferation, economic development, humanitarian crises and the emerging normative principle of a ‘responsibility to protect’ in reaction to them, the responses to global terrorism, and the theme of religion in the public sphere. The guiding purpose was to raise in relation to various issue areas the underlying question as to whether the legality/legitimacy distinction is useful, and if so how it should be applied.

Assembled at the two-day conference was an outstanding group of international scholars, including several UCSB faculty from the departments of Global Studies, Law & Society, English, and Philosophy. The papers gave rise to vibrant discussions and pointed intellectual debate. An exciting outcome of the conference will be a book, already in the planning stages, based on discussion-enriched revisions of the conference papers. This volume will articulate an important jurisprudential set of concerns of relevance to international law, morality, and politics.

Orfalea Center Wraps Up Busy Year

Continued from page 1

Ambassador, Barbara Bodine, offered reflections on the Iraq debacle from the unique vantage of having served as the first Coalition coordinator of post-conflict reconstruction for Baghdad and the central provinces before the arrival of Paul Bremer III (“Rethinking Iraq: A Conversation with Barbara Bodine”). In January, peace activist and author Medea Benjamin arrived in Santa Barbara to deliver a spirited, often humorous talk straight from a Washington D.C. detention facility. She and other activists with her peace organization Code Pink had been held overnight for having unfurled symbolic banners, listing thousands of names, from the public gallery of the U.S. Capitol building while Congress was in session to protest the civilian death toll in the Iraq War.

The range of lecture topics and speakers has been broad. In late November, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation director David Krieger spoke to a large group of UCSB students about their crucial role in anti-nuclear activism. Global South watcher and UCSB visiting professor Walden Bello lectured on global civil society’s key contribution to the legitimacy ‘crisis’ facing the project of neo-liberal economic globalization; George Mathew, Director of the Institute for Social Sciences in New Delhi informed his audience on the inspiring model of grassroots democracy in India, while Orfalea Center visiting researcher Sophie Cheetham of Britain reflected on her experience working with grassroots community organizations fighting the HIV/AIDS crisis in South Africa. The year of lectures ended—fittingly, given the Center’s focus on the “third sector” and global civil society—with a talk entitled “The World We Want” by philanthropy promoter and author Peter Karoff, who spoke about philanthropy’s role as an engine of social change.

Other public Orfalea Center lectures were held in conjunction with Global Studies courses. These included one of the two public talks by Ambassador Bodine (“Iraq: Building Legitimacy – When Security is Not Enough”) and a visit by Reverend Naim Ateek, a Palestinian Anglican priest and director of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem, speaking on the topic “Palestinian Christians in the Middle East Conflict.”

Besides its own lecture series, the Orfalea Center co-sponsored several prominent outside events. Two of them dealt specifically with the humanitarian crisis in Darfur. On November 11, the Santa Barbara Coalition for Global Dialogue hosted a public keynote speech featuring U. N. Assistant Secretary General Robert Orr, entitled “Darfur: Preventable Genocide?” Responding to Dr. Orr’s address were panelists Richard Falk, distinguished visiting professor of Global Studies at UCSB, Manoutchehr Eshkandari-
New Global Studies Consortium
Created at Orfalea Center Workshop
by Victor Faessel

A new international consortium of graduate global studies programs was created by representatives attending an international workshop sponsored by the Orfalea Center at UC Santa Barbara on February 16-17, 2007. The meeting convened faculty and administrators of global and transcultural studies graduate programs from around the world in order to discuss diverse perspectives on global studies as an academic field, and to facilitate the establishment of organized networking structures among these programs.

This informal conference was attended by representatives of the European Union-sponsored Erasmus Mundus Global Studies Consortium, with participants from each of the core consortium programs at the Universities of Leipzig, Vienna, Wroclaw and the London School of Economics along with affiliate programs at Stellenbosch in South Africa and UC Santa Barbara, as well as representatives from several other universities: Duke (U.S.), Fudan (China), Hanyang (Korea), Hitotsubashi and Sophia (Japan), and Roskilde (Denmark). Other invitees were faculty from programs at Arizona State University’s School of Global Studies, Macquarie University in Australia, and the University of Hong Kong.

The workshop focused on three interconnected sets of topics. Among intellectual issues were the questions of what the parameters of the field of global and transcultural studies should be. Is it focused primarily on economic globalization, culture, or social interaction? How should these aspects be related? Are ways of thinking about globalization perceived differently in different parts of the world? Looking at issues of academic focus, the workshop discussed whether there should be international standards for the field, whether graduate programs should be seen as part of the humanities and social sciences or as professional training programs for global civil society leadership. If both, how can these two aspects be inter-related? Finally, the issue of networking was discussed. Are existing associations or consortia sufficient for academic interchange and cooperation? Is there a need for new kinds of networks of like-minded academic centers and programs around the world?

At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants voted to found an international Global Studies Consortium. A planning committee was formed, and a web site has been established to serve as a networking and information exchange clearinghouse for member programs.

The first formal meeting of the Global Studies Consortium will take place next year in either Tokyo or Stellenbosch in South Africa. Since the February workshop other U.S. and foreign programs have begun inquiring about membership. The consortium will share curricula and ideas about teaching programs; exchange teaching materials, including lectures and reading lists; facilitate cooperative teaching projects, such as distance learning, on both bilateral and multilateral levels; develop surveys of student career paths and share information about employment and internships for students; and encourage student and faculty exchange agreements.
MAGIS Internships - Here, There and Everywhere
by Richard Appelbaum, Director of Graduate Studies, Global & International Studies

From Santa Barbara to Australia, MAGIS students will circle the globe in their studies and internships this summer and fall. For a taste of what’s in store for our inaugural class as they enter their second year, are some descriptions of their summer and/or fall plans:

Amanda Chen, Amberjae Freeman, and Paul Lynch will begin their internships this summer with the Clinton Foundation in New York City, before joining partnering NGOs outside the U.S. Their work will involve media, communications, and monitoring the commitments made to the Clinton Global Initiative by partnering with individuals, philanthropies, corporations, and NGOs.

Danielle Bart will be celebrating her marriage this summer (which certainly does not qualify as an internship), then plans to do work at the Center for Global Governance at the London School of Economics (which certainly does not qualify as a honeymoon!).

Brenna Cooley will either be interning with OneVoice, an NGO in Tel Aviv dedicated to promoting peace between Israel and Palestine, or Concern America, an International Development and Refugee Aid NGO that works primarily in Latin America.

Alexis Donkin is planning to go to India, where she is exploring an internship with the Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution at the Jamia Millia Islamia University in Delhi.

Flora Ferati is one of three MAGIS students who will be spending the summer at the University of Leipzig’s Center for Advanced Study Summer Academy, studying such topics as European integration, minorities in Europe, and issues of humanitarian aid. She will then spend five weeks working at an NGO in her native Kosovo, before returning to intern with a local organization that is seeking to create a partnership between the City of Santa Barbara and a refugee camp in Chad.

Dan Fibiger will be interning with the International Labor Rights Fund, an advocacy organization dedicated to achieving just and humane treatment for workers worldwide. He will be based in Washington, D.C., where he will be engaged in a variety of legislative research and lobbying activities.

Mellani Lubuag will be interning with Conservation International, as a communications intern in their Melanesia Center for Biodiversity Conservation headquarters in Atherton, Australia. She will be developing communication and media strategies for the Pacific Region.

Eddie Mendoza will be working with RedeAmerica, a network of Latin American Foundations concerned with promoting sustainable development; he expects to be based in Bogotá.

Persis Milani hopes to be working with Adalah, the Legal Center for Minority Rights in Israel – a human rights NGO concerned with the rights of Arab citizens of Israel.

Tony Morain will spend the summer at Leipzig University’s Summer Academy, then head to the Balkans to collect data for his Washington-based internship with the State Department Bureau of South Eastern European Affairs, where he will be working with the project on Kosovo’s final status.

Samaneh Oladi Ghadikolaei is planning an internship with Human Rights Watch in Los Angeles, where she will work with the Women’s Rights Committee.

Eddie Saade will be also studying at Leipzig University’s Summer Academy, pursuing the course of study in European integration, globalization, and minority issues.

Jack Ucciferri will be working as Director of Research and Shareholder Advocacy at Harrington Investments, a northern California investment firm that seeks to balance financial return with positive environmental, ethical and social change.

Dinah Van Wingerden’s internship with the Santa Barbara-based Eleos Foundation will augment her role as a foundation Trustee; she will serve as Director of the Grant-Making Program at Harrington Investments. Her duties will include establishing granting criteria and guidelines, researching proposals, processing grant requests, conducting site visits, performing evaluations, and preparing briefings for the Board of Directors.

Haiyan Wang will intern with Human Rights Watch in New York City, working in their communications department. Her role will be to assist HRW with their Chinese website, as well as work generally on HRW’s China projects.
The Second Wave of Masters is Coming!
by Richard Appelbaum

The new M.A. program in Global & Internationals Studies is excited to have our second entering class accepted for fall 2007. With a strong pool of some 75 applicants, the admissions committee had some difficult decisions to make, as it sought to keep the number of new entrants between 15 and 20. This new group of eighteen students will round out our program with a full complement of both first and second year graduate students. (The program is eventually slated to grow to 25 students in each of the two years, with enrollments held down during its start-up years.)

Since most of our second year students will be completing their six month internships and education abroad when the new grads arrive in September, the only opportunity for most of the grads to meet each other came during our recruitment open house party held March 15th, 2007 at Mark Juergensmeyer’s Isla Vista beachfront home.

In a full day of mixing business and pleasure, the new grads were introduced to faculty and staff at an informational program which included presentations by the Graduate Division, UC Housing, and International Students & Scholars, and then treated to a tour of campus on foot, of Santa Barbara by trolley, and a fun BBQ. A big “thanks!” goes to all those who participated in our events.

Professional Writing Course for Global Studies Students
by Richard Appelbaum

Global Studies undergrads take note – the Writing Program offers a course that will teach you how to do professional writing in a global setting. Writing 109GS: Professional Writing for Global Studies is an upper-division Writing course, taught by Ljiljana Coklin, that will prepare you to write such things as a professional letter, e-mail, or press release; and critically analyze the website of an established NGO. The central focus of the course, however, is highly ambitious: group projects that require you to write a 50-60 page grant proposal for a new NGO, outlining clearly the background of the problem, the benefiting population, effective plan of action, public relations strategy, management and recruitment, as well as financials. The goal is to put together a persuasive, thoroughly professional grant proposal that would attract potential donors and make the NGO possible – then give a group presentation on the result. If you are thinking of applying for a summer internship with an NGO – or going on to work with an NGO after you graduate – this course could prove invaluable.

JMEWS

Continued from page 3

and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual communities in relation to the Middle East and Islam.

Since September 11, 2001, the Middle East has been in the global media spotlight. Not surprisingly, Middle Eastern women are being used symbolically to reinscribe negative images of Islam and culturally embedded patriarchy. There are far too many media pundits commenting on Middle Eastern women’s lives without any first-hand knowledge of those lives. JMEWS aims to serve as a corrective and scholarly antidote in an era of pervasive misinformation.

JMEWS is reaching out to scholarly communities in several directions. The Winter 2007 issue was guest edited by Martina Rieker, director of the Cynthia Nelson Institute for Gender and Women’s Studies at the American University in Cairo. The first UC issue, it includes a history of the Tunisian women’s movement by a key scholar and activist; an examination of the “White Turk” discourse by a Turkish political scientist; a study of Kurdish women’s organizing in diaspora; an analysis of Palestinian camp women’s life stories; and a study of the translation of “gender” into Arabic.

To engage young scholars, JMEWS will announce this month a bi-annual open competition for the best graduate student research paper in Middle East women’s studies, and plans to publish the prize-winning entry in Winter 2008.

On April 5, JMEWS presented its first annual distinguished lecture sponsored by the UCSB Department of History and the UCSB Women’s Studies Program. Susan Slyomovics, Professor of Anthropology and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at UCLA, delivered a lecture and slide presentation on “Mary’s Well in Nazareth: Photography, Gendered Space, and Water Law,” in the McCune Room. The event was well attended, and we plan to host more such JMEWS events in the future. Since September 11, 2001, the Middle East has been in the global media spotlight. Not surprisingly, Middle Eastern women are being used symbolically to reinscribe negative images of Islam and culturally embedded patriarchy. There are far too many media pundits commenting on Middle Eastern women’s lives without any first-hand knowledge of those lives. JMEWS aims to serve as a corrective and scholarly antidote in an era of pervasive misinformation.

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The World Social Forum: Is Another World Possible?
by Daniel Fibiger, Anthony Morain, Haiyan Wang

One statement reads “Committed to improving the state of the world;” the other, “Another world is possible.” Two statements seemingly aligned with one another, though the sources could not possibly be more different. The former is the slogan of the World Economic Forum, an annual gathering of state leaders, finance ministers and CEOs who network to discuss free-market economic policies that will ultimately shape the lives of billions of people. The latter is the foundational mantra of the World Social Forum, a loosely-knot gathering of tens of thousands of activists that began in 2001 as a response of the effects of these very same free market principles.

UCSB’s newly-inaugurated Masters program in Global and International (MAGIS) studies sent a delegation of three students to the World Social Forum this past January, both to document its potential for MAGIS students in the many participating nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). This year, the conference was hosted in Nairobi, Kenya. It ran for six days, and boasted an estimated 80,000 delegates from Africa, Asia, North and South America, Europe, and the Middle East. It was truly global in scope. Unlike the exclusive forum in Davos, the WSF is a self-organized loosely-knit assemblage of grassroots organizations, NGOs, and anyone else who has an interest in social justice issues. While the Economic Forum is more likely to host such luminaries as Richard Perle, the Social Forum attracts guests such as Desmond Tutu and Noam Chomsky.

In between the opening and closing ceremonies, tens of thousands of people congregated for four days at a massive sports complex on the outskirts of Nairobi, choosing from hundreds of symposiums occurring simultaneously each day. The topics ranged from specific ones, such as empowering Ugandan coffee cooperatives, to more macrocosmic ones, such as combating the environmental degradation inflicted by transnational corporations. Any organization could register and host a symposium, giving the Forum a truly grassroots foundation and credibility. For better or worse, the vast majority of the seminars were largely descriptive, repeating the negative consequences of American foreign policy and corporate globalization. In between these anti-corporate (and sometimes anti-Western) discussions, however, one could find some very informative, practical initiatives that sought to facilitate social change.

As is the case with most conferences, just as much, if not more, can be taken from what occurs outside of the seminars as what can be taken from within them. The congregation of 80,000 individuals, all embedded in the fight for a just world, is inevitably a fertile source of original ideas and interesting conversation. Sitting between Scandinavians extolling the virtues of social democracy and Somalis discussing the current peace building efforts of their newly implemented government, one can’t help but reflect on what a rare opportunity for dialogue such a forum provides.

With that in mind, one must also wonder whether or not the Forum would benefit from initiating dialogue with their proverbial enemy. Can both local and global change prevail if the social justice seekers continually refuse to directly communicate with those on the other side of the political and economic spectrum? Some individuals and organizations advocate such change - for example, those working for increased measures of corporate social responsibility and accountability, which necessarily involves finding common cause with corporations and Western governments. Others act in a more oppositional fashion, calling for a virtual revolution against the current global order. Regardless, the forum must critically assess whether it would benefit from trying to attract a wider array of worldviews. There exists a potential risk that it may instead simply become an echo chamber of like-minded discussion, all coming from varying leftist vantage points.

There has been much discussion over whether or not the Forum itself should take on an overt political stance. Some supporters argue that to make the Forum more political would give it a stronger cohesion, both in principle and in practice, in its struggle for social justice worldwide. Others remain skeptical of overtly politicizing the Forum, claiming that it would undermine the inclusive principles upon which it is based. To officially politicize it one way or the other is in many ways a moot point, as there is little need for clarification of where the organizers and participants in the Forum stand on the political spectrum; it is often simply a matter of how far to the left one can lean without falling over.

The WSF was not without a few suspiciously hypocritical policies in its own right. The price of entry for any African citizen was 500 Kenyan shillings (approximately eight dollars), which is enough to feed an individual for several weeks. Thus, in many ways the Forum absent-mindedly barred many of the people it seeks to help from participating, which at times limited the diversity of perspective. Luckily, a group of activists from the nearby Kibera slum took it upon themselves to protest the unfair entry fee, which was soon removed by the central organizing committee. Equally troubling was the fact that the only two food services within the gates of the sports arena were provided by two of the most upscale restaurants in Nairobi, both owned by a flamboyant, federal politician. A meal at the concession cost another 500 Kenyan shillings, meaning those who were able to get through the gates had little chance of affording a meal. The same group who had protested the removal of the entrance fee again took it upon themselves to address this issue, this time by bringing with them approximately 60 slum children, who proceeded to demand free food. The restaurant was not interested in obligeing, though its patrons were, most of whom kindly handed their meals over to the children. The WSF is clearly not without its contradictions.

Beside certain inconsistencies between its theory and its practice, the WSF is also struggling to find its identity and role in the global movement for social justice. Some people have advocated for it to engage in direct relations with the World Economic Forum, believing that change will only come from cooperation and dialogue. Others, and from our experiences the vast majority of those involved in the WSF, believe that the Forum’s strength is in its autonomy from such institutions. It is a place where social movements, social actors and concerned individuals can share ideas, tactics and experiences. Those individuals and groups can then take those insights back to their respective locales and implement them as they see fit.

The utility of the WSF is in its diversity and in its loose cohesion. For those of us that see systemic change as an emanation of millions of instances of local change, the WSF remains both successful and purposeful.
“This is why I couldn’t practice in the States,” emerged the words from within Hilary. This was minutes after we had squirmed our way through the public hospital emergency room filled with families and even fewer nurses. My mind flashed back to a man inside who may have been in his thirties, but whose body was so atrophied it appeared to be that of a lame 13-year old. Only ten seconds later as I walked by again he was seizing, and his family members held him down as there was no available nurse or doctor to tend to him.

I was visiting Cebu in order to spend time at the Glory Reborn Clinic, a non-profit maternity clinic that Hilary founded in 2002 to provide families with a nurturing and clean environment to have their babies. Over the several weeks of my stay I became an assistant to the clinic’s nurturing and caring midwives while adapting to a completely different cultural framework.

In the community where Glory Reborn is located, families make about 200 pesos per week ($4 US). For most families, electricity and running water are the exception. Families living in too small a space sleep, eat, and defecate in the same location. Making this an even more frightening thought is the fact that many women will attempt to give birth in their homes to avoid charges they cannot afford at the public hospital.

Aware that poverty and lack of proper health education are issues not unique to Cebu, I realized medical ailments are not the problem, per se; rather, one must address the unrest and lack of attention to health that proliferates due to lack of education. For instance, the high school curriculum runs its classrooms askew, inasmuch as students are expected to study from 12th grade science books while their English books are at the Dr. Seuss level. Glory Reborn works to educate women about the healthiest choices they can make within their means, and does so relentlessly. Of course, it is always a matter of human choice, and no matter how often the midwives find themselves dealing with a situation they had specifically warned against they continue to provide comfort and explore possible solutions.

Hilary’s altruism has made impacts tantamount to the difference between life and death. Working in Glory Reborn brought forth in me a much more profound conclusion as regards to how this part of the world is often viewed. One cannot think of it simply as the third world—this would undermine the concept, the very meaning, of human morality. Practices of compassion and giving reach much further than indifference ever will. Given the choice, we can all aspire to a greater peace—an inspiring example being Mother Teresa. Perhaps at the end of the day we are not her, if for no other reason than that she was a nun. However, we can aspire towards this example as a community. Help your world.

To donate to Glory Reborn or inquire about volunteering, visit the website www.gloryreborn.com. You will come across a community of midwives with big hearts who work to make sure others continue beating.

Courtney Campbell, Alumnus, Spring 2005

Howzit? (as they say here in South Africa) For the past seven months I have been working as an intern with a local NGO here in Cape Town, The South African Education and Environment Project, providing extracurricular academic support to high school and pre-school students from the townships. During my time here in South Africa, working with you in areas amidst adjunct poverty, has been both daunting and incomprehensible at times, but has further prompted my decision to pursue a career working on the eradication of poverty. This September I will begin a MA program in International Sustainable Development at a yet to be determined school, still waiting to hear back from a few.

For more updates, see Alumni Updates, page 11
MAGIS Program and Human Rights Watch Partner in Conference on Darfur
by Richard Appelbaum

UCSB’s MA Program in Global & International Studies, in association with the Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies and the Santa Barbara Committee of Human Rights Watch, sponsored a retreat on the crisis in Darfur on April 21. The retreat involved students and faculty from the MA Program, members of Human Rights Watch, staff from Direct Relief International, and experts on the regional challenges. More than 60 people participated in the half-day event, which was held at the Casa de Maria retreat center in the foothills of Montecito.

The retreat was designed to motivate as well as educate its participants, and result in a call to action for local activists. It was moderated by Rabbi Lee Bycel, who – prior to becoming Executive Director of the Western Region of American Jewish World Service – had served as a senior advisor to the International Medical Corps, focusing on Africa. Rabbi Bycel’s keynote address sought to put a human face on the statistics, by recounting the personal stories of refugees he had come to know personally. He decried not only what he characterized as the genocide being perpetrated in the region, but the silence of the rest of the world as well. Ultimately, he argued, Darfur is our problem: the world can no longer sit idly by, as it did in Rwanda – or during the Nazi Holocaust.

Rabbi Bycel’s description of the tragedy as genocide, however, was challenged by Global Studies Distinguished Visiting Professor Richard Falk, who argued that depicting the crisis as a conflict between “evil” Arabs and victimized Africans was an over-simplification that ran the risk of inviting an ill-conceived military intervention. Rather than demonize one side of the conflict, Falk argued, it is important to understand the long-standing tribal divisions of the region, the civil war between some Darfur tribesmen and the Sudanese government, and the larger geopolitics of oil that play a key role. Diplomacy, not war, holds the greatest promise, since armed intervention, Falk argued, will likely make the situation worse.

Falk’s analysis was reinforced by Studies Distinguished Visiting Professor Hilal Elver, who analyzed the environmental conditions that have fueled the crisis. Global warming has led to periods of extreme drought in the region, making age-old cooperation between sedentary farmers and nomadic herders increasingly difficult. At a time of scarcity, the landless herders can no longer obtain water from the farmers’ wells – a situation that has resulted in hostility and violence, much of it fueled by Sudan’s central government as it seeks to violently put down the uprising among Darfurians.

Darfur: A Challenge of Conscience for Every Citizen
by Flora Ferati, an MA student in Global & International Studies
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At least 200,000 people have died in Darfur. More than 2 million people have been displaced and are struggling to survive in squalid camps inside Darfur or in neighboring Chad. Yet while the suffering is stark and demands our attention, the roots of conflict are many and complex.

The Darfur crisis is most often blamed on hostility between the mostly black “African” and “Arab” populations that inhabit the region - hostility that is stoked by the Khartoum government. But the very distinction between “Arab” and “African” is a contested one. The so-called “racial” differences, such as physical appearance, are minor, with the differences mainly due to lifestyle: the so-called “Arabs” are largely nomadic shepherds, while the so-called “Africans” are sedentary farmers.

One of the chief causes of the current conflict has to do with changing environmental conditions in the region, the result of global warming. Plagued with drought during recent decades, the nomadic herders made increasing encroachment on the already scarce land of the farmers. During better times, the two groups had co-existed peacefully, the farming tribes allowing the herding tribes to use their wells in exchange...
Nanotechnology: Key to China’s Future Economic Success
by Richard Appelbaum

Richard Appelbaum was recently a featured speaker at a Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars forum on “Nanotechnology in China: Ambitions and Realities.” The February forum, which drew an overflow crowd of Washington policy-makers, journalists, and other China-watchers, focused on China’s current and future capabilities to become one of the world’s leading nanotechnology nations. The panel included Denis Fred Simon, an expert on Chinese science and technology policy and Provost and Vice president of Academic Affairs at the State University of New York’s Levin Center.

Appelbaum’s webcast presentation was picked up by scientific news media around the world, reflecting a widespread interest in finding out whether China will soon become the world’s technology giant. Appelbaum has since given talks on Chinese technology development at Duke and Brown Universities, as well as UCSB presentations for the center for East Asian Studies, the Geography department’s colloquium series, and the College of Engineering’s Technology Management Program.

Nanotechnology involves the manipulation of matter at a scale of 1-100 nanometers—roughly the width of a few dozen molecules. At this scale, matter exhibits novel properties—super-fast computing, increased strength, altered surface chemistry—which hold the promise of significant technological breakthroughs in such diverse areas as data processing, medicine, clean energy, water filtration, and environmental remediation. The U.S. government’s National Nanotechnology Initiative is spending $1.4 billion this year in support of nanotechnology research; other governments (including China) are following suit.

In a press release issued by the Wilson Center, Appelbaum noted that “China is betting that their growing investment in nanoscience will help them capture a large share of what shortly will become a $3 trillion global market in nanotech manufactured goods, and that breakthroughs in nanotechnology research and commercialization will confer economic superpower status on the country that attains first mover advantage in this cutting-edge technology.” Appelbaum added that “The Chinese government clearly understands that enhanced nanotechnology research capacity and marketable innovation go hand-in-hand. Both are key to their strategy for future commercial success, economic competitiveness, and continued economic growth.”

Appelbaum’s conclusions are reinforced by a senior U.S. Department of Commerce official, who recently claimed that China is rapidly “gaining on” the United States in nanotechnology. This news comes on top of the latest Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) forecast that China will have spent more on research and development (R&D) than Japan in 2006, making it the world’s second highest investor in R&D after the United States.

Appelbaum emphasized the fact that China’s current 15 year plan calls for “leapfrogging development” through high-tech innovation. In the past, China has profited because of thousands of low-wage factories that produce inexpensive commerce goods for export; at the same time, China has sought to acquire new technologies by partnering with foreign multinationals that set up shop in Chinese government-subsidized research parks. The revenues gained from low-wage export-oriented production, along with technology transfer acquired by working with foreign high-tech firms, has fueled the explosive growth of the Chinese economy during the past quarter century. While the Chinese government does not plan to abandon an approach that has worked well, it now hopes to jump ahead on its own, achieving world leadership in such cutting-edge technologies as biotech, nanotech, and information technology. In other words, China now believes that the time is ripe to assume its role as a world economic leader, rather than merely a follower.

Appelbaum spent part of last summer in China with a team of researchers, interviewing Chinese scientists, policy-makers, researchers. He plans to return this summer, focusing on the degree to which China’s success depends on collaboration between Chinese, European, and American scientists and engineers. He also hopes to visit businesses and research centers where nanotech products are being made, to better understand the commercial potential of Chinese scientific advances.

Richard Appelbaum’s research is supported by the NSF-funded Center for Nanotechnology in Society, where he directs a research team that is studying the globalization of nanotechnology, beginning with China. His Wilson Center talk, along with his writings on Chinese nanotech, can be downloaded from the CNS website (www.cns.ucsb.edu).

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John Harmander, Visiting Student, Spring 2005

“I had an excellent time and met a lot of new friends, experienced the American culture, and learned a lot of new things; academically as well as about life in general. Right now I’m started a company in Sweden named Unique Value of Scandinavia. In this work I use a lot of thoughts and knowledge I learned in California.”

Gabriel Roseman, Alumnus, Winter 2006

Gabriel Roseman pictured in front of the Golden Pig in a flower market in Shenzen. It is the year of the ‘Golden Pig,’ which happens every few hundred years or less, so it is a very special year. The writing reads “Jin Zhu Xian Rui” which means “The Golden Pig sends luck and wealth to all.”
for meat and other products. But as arable land became scarce, the Khartoum government supported the herders’ claim to land, adding fuel to the conflict.

The pro-Khartoum government militias - the so-called Janjaweed (a label loosely applied to any “Arab” tribal group involved in the conflict) - attack refugees even inside the Chad border. Eastern Chad is a home to over 200,000 refugees from Darfur. Many of the refugees are camped along a 600 km stretch of the border, and are therefore highly vulnerable to attacks from Sudan. Refugees depend on food aid from international donors. According to Human Rights Watch, at least four million people in the region are currently wholly or partly dependent on food aid.

The images of Darfur refugees take me back to my experience as a 16 year-old refugee during the Kosovo conflict in 1999. In the late April of that year, Kosovar Albanians were expelled forcibly out of their homes by Serbian military and paramilitary forces. Deported in trains, children separated from their parents, and traumatized by horrors of war, the Kosovar Albanian refugees reached the border of Macedonia. Macedonia was what eastern Chad would be to the Darfur refugees today. Unlike the generosity of Chad, however, the Macedonian government decided to close its borders to the Kosovar Albanian refugees. It thus violated its obligations under international refugee law, denied refugees access to humanitarian assistance, and forcibly separated refugee families. The “no-man's land” - a muddy camp at Blace between the borders of Kosovo and Macedonia - was shelter to my entire family, along with hundreds of thousands Kosovar Albanians.

Ethnic cleansing in Kosovo was halted after 78 days of a NATO air-strike campaign. But who should intervene in Sudan to stop the humanitarian catastrophe - and what form should intervention take? There have been about 7,000 poorly-equipped African Union troops assigned to maintain peace in an area the size of France. Sudan's government - like Milosevic's in Serbia - presents the same challenge to the UN today. Armed intervention would arguably worsen the situation. But how long can we tolerate the refugee crisis, in a region where the escalating conflict has the potential to engulf the entire region into a war of massive scale?

To find answers to these questions, on April 21st - a sunny Santa Barbara Saturday morning - over 50 globally-conscious members of our community gathered at the spiritual meeting place of La Casa de Maria to discuss the issues and far-reaching impact of the crisis in Darfur. The organization of this event, entitled “Darfur, A Challenge of Consciousness,” was a cooperative effort by the Santa Barbara Committee of Human Rights Watch and UCSB’s MA degree program in Global and International Studies (MAGIS). Richard Appelbaum, Director of the MAGIS program, and Stanley Roden, co-chair of Santa Barbara Human Rights Watch, co-led the event.

Four Speakers - Rabbi Lee Bycel (recently returned from Chad), UCSB Distinguished Visiting Professors Richard Falk and Hilal Elver, and David Buchbinder (HRW’s Special Researcher on Chad and Sudan) - offered their perspectives on the conflict. They emphasized the importance of letting the refugees know that the world has not turned a blind eye to their suffering. Further, they suggested that simplifying the conflict into a morality play between “evil Arabs” and “African victims” - criminalizing the former as a prelude to armed intervention - will likely only worsen the crisis. Thus, reconciliation rather than unilateral military intervention is more likely to contribute to long term stability and peace in Sudan.

UCSB’s MA Program in Global & International Studies, in conjunction with the City of Santa Barbara, is currently exploring possibilities for facilitating the flow of humanitarian assistance from our community to a refugee camp in Chad or Darfur. If you are interested in getting involved, please go to our website at http://www.global.ucsb.edu/news_events/darfurcrisis.html.