

MAGIS Teams Up With HRW to End the Use of Child Soldiers

by Nicolas Pascal

Photos by Paul Lynch

On February 12, 2002, 110 countries worldwide signed an international treaty banning the use of children under age 18 in war. Unfortunately, the United Nations estimates that up to 250,000 children are still being used as soldiers in 20 armed conflicts worldwide.

Under the guidance of Human Rights Watch Santa Barbara members Victoria Riskin and Adrienne O'Donnell, master's candidates Paul Lynch and Nicolas Pascal of the Global and International Studies Program have been spearheading the Santa Barbara Red Hand Campaign to end the use of child soldiers since January of this year. Along with the integral support of Santa Barbara High School and UCSB undergraduates, the Red Hand Campaign Santa Barbara (RHCSB) successfully brought to bear a week of activities on both the UCSB and Santa Barbara High School campuses last spring. Within a five-day period, over 1,000 signatures were collected. In the next several months *you will have the opportunity to join us in collecting many more signatures.*



UCSB MAGIS and undergraduates join Santa Barbara high school students and faculty in support of the Red Hand Campaign Santa Barbara (RHCSB).

See Red Hand, Page 3



Jan Nederveen Pieterse

Global Studies Welcomes Jan Nederveen Pieterse

Made possible by a generous endowment from Duncan and Suzanne Mellichamp, the University of California, Santa Barbara has created four distinguished professorships, two in the social sciences and two in the humanities, clustered around the study of global civil society.

The Global & International Studies Program welcomes Jan Nederveen Pieterse as its Mellichamp Professor of Global Studies and sociology. Pieterse specializes in globalization, development studies and cultural studies. He has been a visiting professor in Brazil, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, and Thailand. He is editor of *Journal of Global Studies* and *Clarity Press* and associate editor of *Ethnicities*, *European Journal of Social Theory*, *Futures*, *Globalizations*, *Third Text*, and *Journal of Social Affairs*.

Pieterse's recent books include *Is There Hope for Uncle Sam? Beyond the American Bubble* (2008); *Ethnicities and Global Multiculture: Pants for an Octopus* (2007); *Globalization or Empire?* (2004); *Globalization and Culture: Global Mélange* (2003; second edition 2009); and *Development Theory: Deconstructions/ Reconstructions* (2001; second edition 2009).

The Mellichamp Academic Initiative Professorships will be committed to the interdisciplinary study of those aspects of global society, history, and culture that are not encompassed within the traditional study of nation states and their international relations.



Photo courtesy of Jessica Gay Marie.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST GRADUATES IN THE MASTER OF ARTS IN GLOBAL & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM!
COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATION, JUNE 2008.

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IGCC is a multi-campus research unit (MRU) of the University of California system. Its mission is to build bridges between the theory and practice of foreign policy, promote closer links with the policy community, and advance the research and educational opportunities for scholars in international affairs throughout the UC system.



Top photo: In May 2008, MAGIS had an opportunity to meet Salman Rushdie, one of the most celebrated authors of our time.

Bottom photo: May 2008, MAGIS met with Jeffrey Sachs and Greg Mortenson.

Director of The Earth Institute, Sachs is widely considered to be the leading international economic advisor of his generation.

Co-founder of the Central Asia Institute, Pennies for Peace, and co-author of the national best-seller *Three Cups of Tea*, Greg Mortenson has helped more than 25,000 children in remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan receive quality education and established more than 60 schools.



Photos courtesy of Roman Baratiak.

Red Hand Campaign (continued from cover)

The use of child soldiers has been universally condemned as an abhorrent violation of international law. However, governments, militias, and paramilitaries continue to recruit children as foot soldiers in intensely horrific conflicts around the globe - often utilizing violent coercion to do so. The recruiters take advantage of the emotional and physical immaturity of children and the consequences are tragic.

The 2008 Child Soldiers Global Report states that - either as members of non-state armed groups or enlisted into government forces - children in 19 countries and territories were involved in such degradation between April 2004 and October of 2007. Human Rights Watch has interviewed child soldiers in countries including Angola, Burma, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, Liberia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda.

Today, hundreds of thousands of children are wielding AK-47s and M-16s in fear of their own life, and thrusting that fear upon another. Some children become desperate after being separated from their homes and family members; others join national armies or armed groups to avenge the death(s) of family members. Cases of sexual abuse in these militias are all too common: a third of all child recruits are estimated to be girls. Some are kidnapped, while others run from poverty, conflict and despair - straight into the throes of combat. In either case, the humanitarian principles that bolster a just and fair society have failed to protect these children.

Without secure access to education, running water, food, electricity and a viable future, they are instead left to stand guard, serve as spies, carry-out suicide missions, take-over cities, and carry supplies. Interviews with ex-combatants and ex-child soldiers affirm that the damage and emotional scars inflicted upon them are sometimes beyond repair. Who among us would wish such circumstances upon anyone, much less a child?

Children from around the world inspired the creation of a coalition of human rights organizations, who in turn have launched a world-wide initiative, urging officials at the United Nations to act. Human Rights Watch and the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers hope to collect one million red hand messages from individuals and organizations around the world. They are asking supporters to express their concern by including their red handprint along with a message.

This global campaign will culminate on February 12th, 2009, Red Hand Day, when Human Rights Watch will present one million plus red hands to United Nations officials in New York on the anniversary of the day the treaty to ban child soldiers took effect. We will make clear that we expect more than a ban - we want the treaty to be enforced.

We invite other members of the Santa Barbara community to join us. Instead of signing a petition, we call upon people, both young and old, to create a handprint with red paint or cut a hand out of red paper or copy the design below and add a personal message of protest to be sent to the UN. A young German girl chose these words: "Don't let the children die for you. THEY are our future." Contact us directly if your church or community organization would be willing to help.

Join us to end this senseless exploitation of children.

LEARN MORE:

<http://hrw.org/campaigns/crp/>
<http://www.child-soldiers.org/home>

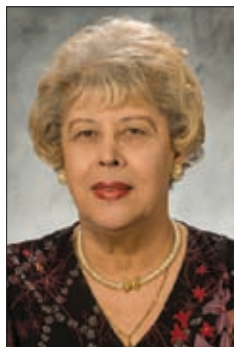
GET INVOLVED:

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FACULTY NEWS

Faculty on the Move



Marguerite Bouraad Nash, Vice Chair and Student Advisor of the Global Peace and Security Program, and senior lecturer in the GPS Program and the Political Science Department, will serve as an Expert Witness on behalf of a Palestinian woman seeking asylum in the United States. Bouraad Nash has already submitted a Court Brief supporting the asylum applicant and is expected to testify during Immigration and Naturalization Service Proceedings before the United States Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review, Immigration Court in St Louis, Missouri.



Raymond Cléménçon is a Visiting Professor in the Global & International Studies Program and the Bren School. He specializes in international and comparative environmental policy and politics and is Editor of the Journal of Environment and Development.

Before arriving at UCSB he taught graduate and undergraduate courses at UC San Diego and worked as a consultant for the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank.

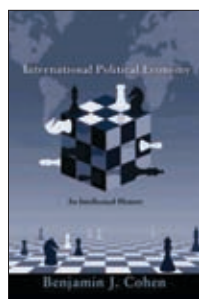
Until 1994 he represented Switzerland in international environmental negotiations and conferences. He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Zurich.



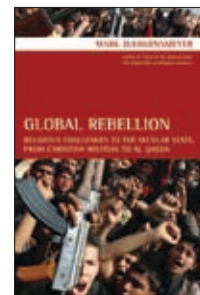
Benjamin Jerry Cohen, Louis G. Lancaster Professor of International Political Economy, published a new book entitled *International Political Economy: An Intellectual History* (Princeton University Press).

In May 2008, he was a visiting professor at the Institute of Political Studies (Sciences-Po) in Paris, giving a series of lectures on "The Political Economy of Financial

Openness." That same month, he gave lectures at Warwick University in England ("The Future of International Political Economy") and at the IE Business School in Madrid, Spain ("Global Currency Rivalry: Can the Euro Ever Surpass the Dollar?").



Mark Juergensmeyer, Director of the Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies, has a newly published book titled, *Global Rebellion: Religious Challenges to the Secular State* (University of California Press, 2008).



Tim Cooley, Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology, was the invited presenter for the Ph.D. musicology seminar at the University of Music and Theatre, Rostock, Germany on June 25, 2008.

In August, the second edition of his book, edited with Gregory Barz, *Shadows in the Field: New Perspectives for Fieldwork in Ethnomusicology*,

came out at Oxford University Press.



Bidyut Mohanty, Ph.D, Head of the Women's Studies Department at the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi, was a Visiting Professor in Global and International Studies, UCSB in Summer 2008.

She is a specialist on Famine, Agrarian History and Decentralization Studies with a focus on Gender, Culture and Development. She combines grassroots activism with participatory research including a continuing program relating to women's empowerment for last fifteen years.

Her publications include several research papers and edited books, among them: *Urbanization in Developing Countries: Access to Basic Services and Community Participation* (1993) and *Women and Political Empowerment* (annual volumes from 1995 until 2006). A short story writer in Oriya ; she has two books to her credit.

Faculty on the Move



Manoranjan Mohanty was a Visiting Professor in Global and International Studies at UCSB in Summer 2008. He is a Political Scientist and a China scholar with many publications on social movements, human rights and the development experience of India and China.

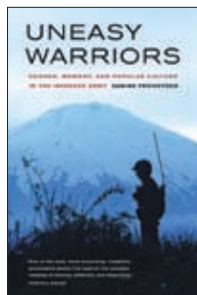
Currently the Durgabai Deshmukh Professor of Social Development at the Council for Social Development, New Delhi and Co-chair of the Institute of Chinese Studies he was until 2004 the Director, Developing Countries Research Centre and Professor of Political Science at the University of Delhi.

His recent publications include *Contemporary Indian Political Theory* (2000); *Class, Caste and Gender* (Ed. 2004); and *Grass-roots Democracy in India and China* (Co-ed. 2007).

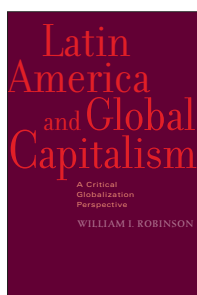


Sabine Frühstück, Professor of Modern Japanese Cultural Studies and Director of the East Asia Center, has a recent book on the Self-Defense Forces in present-day Japan, *Uneasy Warriors: Gender, Memory and Popular Culture in the Japanese Army* was published by the University

of California Press in 2007. The Japanese translation, *Fuan Na Heishitachi* was published by Hara Shobo, Tokyo, in 2008.



William Robinson, Professor of Sociology, has a newly published book titled, *Latin America and Global Capitalism: A Critical Globalization Perspective*, (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008).



International Workshop on "Masculinities in Japan"

by Sabine Frühstück

The *Masculinities in Japan* workshop was held in Santa Barbara January 31 - February 2, 2008. Co-organized by Sabine Frühstück (University of California at Santa Barbara) and Anne Walthall (University of California at Irvine), this workshop featured some of the leading Japan scholars from Japan, Europe and the United States. It aimed at critically examining the struggle over, initiation into, and formation of masculinity in Japan from the seventeenth century to today. This is a particular salient moment for such a workshop. "Japanese masculinity is in crisis," claimed the sociologist Ito Kimio recently. He also suggested that the present were the beginning of an era marked by a series of distinct "men's problems:" the inability to get married despite a desire to do so, the rising divorce rate among middle-aged and older men, and a number of role strain phenomena due to the perception that conventional roles no longer reap the customary rewards with respect to individual fulfillment, material gain or social respect while no new roles have yet materialized. This sense of crisis also seeps out of former prime minister Hashimoto Ryutaro's critique of Japanese men as incapable of caring for their families because they did not undergo military training. It is constantly reinforced by the self-doubt expressed by some of Japan's most prominent men, ranging from pop art icon Murakami Takashi who proposes that Japanese men have never overcome the childlike condition attributed to them by allied occupation commander General MacArthur to rightwing demagogue and Tokyo mayor Ishihara Shintaro who is eager to turn Japan's Self-Defense Forces into a full-blown military and thus restore a "normal state" with "real men" in charge.

The workshop was interdisciplinary in nature, including anthropological, sociological and historical perspectives. Consciously avoided were the conventional tropes of seemingly hegemonic masculinity that have been dealt with in earlier scholarship such as the samurai, the male Kabuki actor who enacts female personae, and the salary man or white collar worker. Instead, this workshop moved beyond the above collections and identified, analyzed, and theorized some of the key modes of masculinity within their respective historical settings. The discussions aimed at identifying those modes of masculinity which are underwritten and under-theorized in Japanese studies, ranging from townsmen and artisans of the seventeenth century to the gender of robots in the twenty-first century. Moreover, the workshop explored sites where formations of masculinity have been formulated, contested, and renegotiated in a dialectic response to historical transformations, including the impact of new technologies, knowledge and normativizing institutions.

INSIDE THE ORFALEA CENTER

Global Studies Consortium Meets in Tokyo

ORFALEA CENTER
FOR GLOBAL & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

The Global Studies Consortium, conceived at an international seminar hosted by the Orfalea Center in 2007, held its inaugural meeting in Tokyo in May 2008. Its purpose is to promote, facilitate, and foster cooperation among graduate teaching programs in global studies throughout the world. Mark Juergensmeyer and Victor Faessel of the Orfalea Center attended the May events, which included the consortium's first official business meeting and an "International Symposium on Global Studies Graduate Education" graciously hosted by consortium member Sophia University. At the meeting, the Orfalea Center was designated as the organization's permanent office record for maintaining archives and membership data.

Academic institutions around the world have responded to the forces of globalization in diverse and creative ways, not least of which has been the establishment of new graduate programs in global studies. The Global Studies Consortium is open to any academic program in the world that offers a graduate M.A., M.Sc., M.Phil., or Ph.D. related to global studies. As put forth in its mission statement, the consortium includes "programs that are transnational, transcultural, global/local, world systems, or cross area, and that are hospitable to interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches within the humanities and social sciences."

After introductions by Sophia University's president and the dean of its faculty of social sciences, Juergensmeyer gave the opening plenary address on the topic of Global Studies in Graduate Education, highlighting the "Santa Barbara model" of global studies with an overview of our Masters and PhD emphasis programs in Global & International Studies. The next session looked closer at global studies as academic field, with presentations on the "spatial turn" and on the question whether global studies can yet be counted a "field" at all in terms of traditional conceptions, definitions, and methods. A third session looked at two examples of how global studies is conceived in different areas of

the world, with critical papers on Africa's contribution to global studies and on another problematic question: whether a non-Eurocentric global studies is possible.

The day ended with a presentation session for existing graduate programs in global studies, inviting them to briefly introduce their programs and to present what meanings global studies has in their national and institutional contexts. Twelve of the 15 established programs in attendance presented at this session.

Day Two was taken up with a series of "curriculum sessions" which looked first at six new programs under development around the world (in Mexico, China, Korea, Sikkim in northern India, and the USA). The next session was devoted to suggestions on how to enhance networking among member programs, coordinate the sharing of curriculums, promote faculty and student exchanges, and facilitate development of common contours for graduate



Global Studies Consortium steering committee and representatives of other programs at the consortium's inaugural business meeting. (Photos courtesy of Victor Faessel.)



Mark Juergensmeyer delivers keynote address at symposium organized for the May 2008 inaugural meeting of the Global Studies Consortium in Tokyo, Japan.

Workshop on Women, Culture, and Development in South Asia

In May 2008, the Orfalea Center hosted a one-day invitational workshop on issues of inclusive development, culture, and civil society with a focus on South Asia. The workshop, which was organized by Global & International Studies visiting professor Bidyut Mohanty of the Institute of Social Sciences in New Delhi, considered recent academic research and fieldwork in areas related to gender justice and decentralized decision-making, livelihood, health and education, and the interplay of development and culture. Participants addressed such questions as how issues of development and gender are situated amid globalizing tendencies of integration, on the one hand, and the parallel erosion of safety nets affecting national and local culture, polity, and economy on the other.

Millions of women have gained new opportunities cutting across caste and class systems to be part of decision-making bodies at the grassroots level (village councils) in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. But the tradition-bound societies of South Asia remain steeped in cultural imaginaries that discriminate against women and marginalize other groups. Increasing numbers of women are sharing the household burden by augmenting income and trying to reduce family vulnerability to the food crisis through the use of new initiatives such as microfinance. Models like the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh and SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association) are now being emulated in other parts of the world because of their effectiveness in South Asia. Coupled with these advances, Dalit (untouchable caste) and tribal consciousness experience a resurgence, asserting the rights of all.

Nevertheless, social, economic and political institutions are still guided by patriarchal principles. Women are still frequently subjected to domestic violence and public humiliation, while dowry deaths, female feticide, and honor killings still take place in poor and rich families alike for failure to observe archaic social customs. Religion adds another order of complexity to many of these complex challenges.

Taking stock of developments in South Asian countries and peering ahead to the future, invited scholars, local NGO leaders, and UCSB faculty and graduate students presented experience from the field and discussed research. Selected papers are being edited and will be posted on the Orfalea Center website.



Photo courtesy of Victor Faessel.

UCSB graduate student panelists Paul Lynch and Alexis Donkin (Global & International Studies) and Amandeep Sandhu (Sociology, Global Studies)



Bidyut and Manoranjan Mohanty.



Photo courtesy of Victor Faessel.

Panelists Esther Lezra (UCSB), Indrani Chaudhuri (Fulbright scholar), Erin Moore (USC), Manoranjan Mohanty (UCSB visiting professor).

RELATED LINKS:

Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies
www.global.ucsb.edu/orfaleacenter

INSIDE THE ORFALEA CENTER

'The Cosmopolitan Ideal' & Civil Society: Joint Seminar with the Triglav Circle

by Ana Thomat, Orfalea Center Visiting Scholar

In March of this year, the Orfalea Center hosted a meeting of the Triglav Circle, a non-governmental organization that maintains special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. This seminar, *The Cosmopolitan Ideal: Content and Actors*, co-sponsored by the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, debated four themes over two days: the need for a cosmopolitan ideal and the current efforts to imagine such ideal; a reading of history and the idea of progress in light of this ideal; the cosmopolitan ideal, realism, and responsibility towards the world; and finally, sources of identity and religion in relation to this ideal. The Orfalea Center hosted a previous Triglav Circle seminar in early 2006, and plans have been made to co-host future meetings.



The topic of the seminar represents one of the Triglav Circle's major conceptual foci and entails the vision of a global consensus centered on the inviolability of human dignity and diversity. The idea and logic behind the cosmopolitan ideal as a global norm is that only when there is a set of values deemed to be global or universal can there be a standard to which theorists and practitioners can aspire. This way the immaterial values of human life can be protected and the human condition be improved for the well-being of global civil society. Questions such as how to find or rediscover a "sense of the sacred" for environmental protection, and how different sources of knowledge can be used for establishing a cosmopolitan ideal were raised and discussed. Also debated was how the concept of identity – personal and social – is to be understood in contemporary cultures and whether an atheistic cosmopolitan ideal is possible.

The Triglav circle is devoted to tackling ethical questions of responsibility towards the environment and humanity. The idea for a separate, not-for-profit organization dealing with global aspects of human relations, the environment, ethics, and religion arose out of a meeting on 'Ethical and Spiritual Dimensions of Social Progress' held in Bled near Mountain Triglav in Slovenia, October 1994. That meeting was a preparatory seminar for the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen, March 1995. In January 1996 nine of the seminar participants decided to establish an organization that would make its primary assignment the discussion of the "moral criteria for assessing the quality of political, economic, and social changes and their impact on the natural environment; the concepts of needs, wants, and satisfaction in market economies and societies; the role of the 'human spirit' in secular society; education and socialization; and the vital role of philosophy, religion, arts, and aesthetics in fostering a plural, rich, and vibrant modern culture." Since March 1998, the Triglav Circle has been incorporated as a non-profit organization that disseminates reports on the outcomes of its regular intellectual exchanges in the so-called Triglav Notes, which are distributed among members, meeting participants, and to a wider public audience. But the Triglav Circle does not confine its engagement at the theoretical, discursive level, for it actively engages with decision-making and implementing bodies such as the United Nations and similar organizations.

Global Studies Consortium Meets in Tokyo (continued from page 6)

education in the field. The conference concluded with reports from three institutions (one European, one Asian, one North American) on job market prospects for graduates of global studies programs.

The conference ended with the inaugural business meeting of the Global Studies Consortium. Bylaws were discussed and approved, individual projects to further consortium goals were volunteered, and new steering committee members elected. In conclusion, the site of the next annual meeting was decided when an offer by Matthias Middell, director of the EU's Erasmus Mundus global studies program, to serve as institutional host the next consortium meeting was unanimously approved. We gather next at the University of Leipzig in fall 2009.



Symposium participants reconvene after a coffee break.

Photo courtesy of Victor Faessel

UN University Collaboration on Global Futures Project

A new three-year project on “Global Futures: The Transnational World of 2030” will be jointly sponsored by the Orfalea Center and the United Nations University program in Peace and Governance. The undertaking represents a new collaboration between the Center and the Tokyo-based UNU, building on the success of their jointly sponsored 2007-08 project *Legality and Legitimacy in the International Order*, which will soon be published as a book. The new project will be coordinated by Richard Falk, a distinguished visiting professor in the Global and International Studies Program and a fellow of the Orfalea Center, and the Center will be its primary base of operations.



The new project will bring together a group of approximately 20-30 scholars and policy professionals in a series of colloquia to be held in Santa Barbara and New Delhi, India. They will develop a series of working papers on topics of significant global concern that will affect the world in the next twenty years, and this effort will culminate in a major conference, a set of multidimensional interpretations, and a published volume. Starting from current trends, the 2030 Project considers future challenges and aspirations, taking into consideration alternative scenarios of plausible development. The year 2030 was selected to strike a balance between being too preoccupied with immediate realities and looking so far into the future as to become detached from present realities.

Considering the current trajectory of global politics, the world of 2030 will increasingly juxtapose the national with the transnational dimensions of social concerns. The project will cover a variety of topics, including environmental protection, energy resources, food production and water availability, pandemics, and climate change; protection of labor standards in the work force, security, cultural identity, and the global commons; transnational terrorism, postmodern warfare, and humanitarian and natural disasters; global governance, regionalism, citizenship, global democracy, and other issues. In each case the project focuses on the local and global character of the problems, with an interest in whether and how these global challenges will be confronted—either by the cooperation of national forces or by transnational agencies and actors.

The project builds upon other work that has had similar objectives, especially the World Order Models Project (WOMP) that undertook in the 1970s to produce a series of civilizational studies of ‘A Preferred World for the 1990s.’ WOMP’s approach was also based on the creative tension between group collaboration and individual effort, and like the 2030 Project, combined diagnosis with prescription in its response



to challenges and responses related to the global policy agenda. The new project will also take advantage of other related undertakings such as the ambitious 2020 study produced in the United States by the National Intelligence Council.

Project meetings are to alternate between Santa Barbara and New Delhi so as to facilitate the involvement of a wider range of participants. Although many participants will come from countries other than India and the United States, those two countries will provide an interesting comparison of perspectives on the national and transnational dimensions of the problems and their potential solutions.

It is expected that the project will produce a publishable series of multi-disciplinary interpretations. These will reflect differences in cultural perspective, policy priority, and empirical assessment, rather than constructing a single blueprint of the future of world order.



Mark Juergensmeyer, Director of the Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies, arrives in style for the commencement ceremony of the first graduating class of the Master of Arts in Global & International Studies. (June 2008)

Photo courtesy of Roman Baratiak.

The Farm Bill: Some Gain, Mostly Pain for Global Workers

by **Haley Wrinkle**

MAGIS; International Labor Rights Forum Intern



Haley Wrinkle

In May, Congress passed a \$307 billion Farm Bill that overwhelmingly benefits the rich at the expense of poor farmers and laborers. The funds, set to be distributed over five years, will go chiefly to US commercial farmers with an average annual income of over \$225,000 giving these businessmen an artificial competitive edge against poor rural farmers in the rest of the world. The US, while it pushes the doctrine of “free-trade” the world over, is maintaining protectionist barriers to support its own industries through these continuing subsidy schemes.

The bill was passed with the backing of the powerful farm lobby with little resistance: it gained an overwhelming majority in Congress. The US began its now outdated subsidy scheme system during the depression to help poor farmers get on their feet, but it has become a tool of the rich.

US subsidies wreak havoc on the food markets – and farmers – of the developing world. The Mexican corn industry for instance, a longstanding integral part of Mexico’s economy, has suffered severely from heavy US corn subsidies since Mexico opened its markets to the US under NAFTA in 1994. Since that time, cheap US corn (kept artificially cheap at the expense of US taxpayers) has flooded into Mexico, driving down the real prices for corn received by Mexican farmers: from 1994 to 2003, prices dropped by some 70%. This is unsurprising considering the fact that in the year 2000, US subsidies equaled ten times Mexico’s entire agricultural budget. These statistics were taken from Oxfam International, which claims bluntly that “there is a direct link between government agricultural policy in the US and rural misery in Mexico.” The decline of Mexico’s corn industry has caused many families to seek work elsewhere: the Maquiladoras, corporate sweatshops where workers’ rights are systematically abused. Since Mexico became vulnerable to US subsidies, the real minimum wage has declined by 20 percent; half of Mexico’s population now lives in poverty.

Enshrined in the farm bill is a continuation of the subsidies that have led to the ruin of farmers in Mexico and around the world.

Perhaps the most underhanded part of the bill is the continuation of a mandate that all US government-funded foreign food aid be bought in America and transported using American ships. This goes directly against the WFP’s request that all food aid be bought locally, which stimulates local economies and provides a livelihood for poor farmers. In other words, the US has chosen to benefit its own industry at the expense of developing world workers even in its aid.

While the farm bill is a scandal that poor farmers and laborers will get the blunt end of, there is one positive gain for workers that has been made. Thanks to the efforts of the ILRF and others committed to workers’ rights, the farm bill included a provision that may help end child and forced labor in the global agricultural sector. The provision calls for the establishment of a voluntary certification program that will certify that US importers of agricultural products have taken the necessary steps to ensure that their products are not produced with forced or child labor.

Small gains are being made for laborers worldwide, but systematic causes of exploitation continue to prevail.



The Labor is Not a Commodity blog is a collaborative blog space where organizations concerned with international labor rights issues can post comments about current events in labor news. Current participants of the blog include International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF), STITCH, SweatFree Communities, and US/Labor Education in the Americas Project (US/LEAP).

RELATED LINKS:

LABOR IS NOT A COMMODITY

(originally published July 16, 2008)

http://laborrightsblog.typepad.com/international_labor_right/2008/07/the-farm-bill-s.html

First Graduating Class Heads Out to Make a Difference



Amanda Chen during her CGI internship in Tanzania.

Amanda Chen (MA, Class of 2008) has taken a position at the Clinton Global Initiative in New York as Senior Portfolio Associate for the Commitments Department.

The Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) is an initiative of the Clinton Foundation that brings together global leaders from corporations, NGOs and public service to devise and implement solutions to poverty, health care, climate change, education and other pressing global challenges.

In this role, she will be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the progress of ongoing commitments, supporting ongoing commitment-makers in the form of partnership services, research and knowledge-building associated with commitments function, and providing content for external communications.

MAGIS Program Enters Its Third Year

The Global and International Studies program is pleased to welcome their newest incoming graduate students. The 18 students were welcomed at a reception hosted by faculty, staff and current students. The incoming cohort is a diverse and interesting group of people, representing many ethnic and cultural areas of our world, including India, China, Siberia, and Israel, just to name a few. We welcome them and look forward to a fun and exciting year ahead.

by **Dan Fibiger**



Dan Fibiger

In October, I will take up the position of Managing Director for the American/Cambodian NGO, Journeys Within Our Community (JWOC). The organization mostly focuses on economic development and youth-based education in and around Siem Reap, the small city home to one of the travel wonders of the world, Angkor Wat.

Specifically, JWOC provides university scholarships to highly motivated Cambodian students, and in return, asks that they

provide a few hours each week giving back to the community. The scholarship students subsequently help JWOC run: two language schools for children and young adults living in the squatter villages that surround the peripheries of Siem Reap; a micro-loan enterprise that provides low-interest loans to those living in poverty; clean-water projects, mostly involving the implementation of wells in squatter villages that have no access to clean water. JWOC is also in the midst of scaling up its operations in Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam, and I'll be sure to report back with more information once we have settled on specific projects in each country.

Whereas only 3 months ago I was set to begin my PhD at the New School University in Manhattan, I now find myself packing up my mosquito net, getting my typhoid and tetanus shots, and trying to decide whether I should bring SPF 50 or 75 (not exactly the same things I was worrying about regarding the move to Manhattan, should I pay 2000 or 3000 dollars a month in rent?).

Despite having visited Cambodia twice before, I have no idea what to expect in terms of being responsible for the oversight and development of an entire NGO there. I'll do my best to represent MAGIS as best I can, and will be sure to continue pestering all the professors and staff with unsolicited updates every few months.

Please take the time to visit our website,
www.journeyswithinourcommunity.org,
and of course, donations are always welcome.



Reports from the Field: Oman and Rwanda

by Joseph Farsakh

September 10, 2008

Critical Language Scholarship Arabic in Salalah, Oman

The southern Omani City, Salalah, is an amazing pocket of land hidden inside a crescent of mountains. The rain during the summer monsoon season, Al Hareef, provides the mountains with green vegetation, and the coasts with large waves crashing into the ocean cliffs of the Dofar region. The culture of Oman is beyond any wordy description as much of their growth has followed a line of preserving Omani traditions by blending cultural tourism with modernity. Oman has proven to be an excellent place for acquisition of the Arabic language. The relationships formed during the CLS Arabic Study Program at Dofar University this summer of 2008, will undoubtedly hold across space and time.



Photo courtesy of Joseph Farsakh.

Experience Rwanda

While walking the streets of modern day Kigali, it is difficult to imagine the genocidal tragedy that has dominated Rwandan society since 1994. A visit to one of the memorials, or a chat with the locals will give any visitor more than their imagination needs to recognize that up to a million people were violently and brutally murdered within a three month period. Followed by waves of massacre, the international community watched, aware that the violence would take place. After massive killings, the international community provided aid to "refugees" guilty of genocide, allowing them the chance to rebuild themselves and regroup into a militarized force, thus prolonging the violence. The international community failed Rwanda. We refused to prevent the loss of a million men, women, and children. If Rwanda's experience has provided one lesson to the world, it is that endangered peoples who depend on the international community for physical protection stand defenseless. An unfortunate truth that is reflected in many parts of the world today. The horrors that remind us of these mistakes are crucial for society to learn, to reconcile and to rebuild relationships free from the threat of dangerous ideology. This is the challenge facing Rwanda and the larger Great Lakes Region of Africa. Currently living and teaching in the capital of Rwanda, I can see how Kigali has begun to rebuild itself. Rwanda has recently joined the (EAC) East African Community by forming economic ties with its neighboring countries. Now there is an increasing demand for a variety of skills, including the English language. Upon arrival I began teaching right away. I am here with Network for Africa, (www.network4africa.org), and am working with a number of partner groups. I teach beginners in English Basics, and Special Topics to the advanced students, (Business Ideas, C.V. Resume Write-ups, Excel, Power Point, Information Technology, and we have discussions on Global Culture, Politics, and Ideology). The students are very curious about the world, so we discuss many topics. I am also teaching English for two women cooperatives in the afternoons. One group under Aspire Africa, who work together to make African beaded jewelry, in a beautiful Rwandan style, made from recycled paper materials. The other group of women call themselves INEZA (Blessing), and work together to make hand bags, also very colorful and attractive. Both groups need to learn the basics in language to sell their products for an income to keep their cooperatives going.

Coming Plans for Chad

By mid October, I will be flying to Chad after a few days in Ethiopia to obtain the visa. In Chad, I will be continuing to work for Network for Africa as well as their human rights wing Waging Peace. The goal is to conduct preliminary field research in preparation for a two year trauma therapy training program for Darfuri Refugees. The program is scheduled to begin in 2009 in the area of Goz Bedia. My research in Chad will be looking at a number of issues: 1) How to adapt training programs used in Rwanda to the culture and requests of refugees in Eastern Chad; 2) identify those refugees with community leadership characteristics that would be most receptive and suitable to participate in the training program; and 3) conduct follow-up research regarding child soldiers in the camps of Eastern Chad. I will be in Chad from mid October through November, and will be back in California by December. If all goes well, I will be back in Santa Barbara by January.

MAGIS NEWS

Google Faces Human Rights Votes

Jack Ucciferri

MAGIS; Research and Advocacy Director for Harrington Investments

BBC News Interview

by Anthony Reuben

Business reporter, BBC News



It cannot be easy to be the company that set out with the motto: “don’t be evil”.

Especially not now.

Google - whose shares [as of May 7, 2008 traded] at almost \$600 (£300), more than \$100 above its level a year ago - is facing two shareholder motions at its annual general meeting on Thursday [May 8, 2008].

Both insist the company needs to do more to fight censorship and support human rights.

The top three executives at Google control about two-thirds of the voting shares, so neither motion will get a majority.

But that is not the point of the exercise, according to Amnesty International, which will be proposing the first motion at the meeting.

“A lot of shareholders vote and don’t attend the meeting but they may pay attention to what happens,” says Amy O’Meara, director of business and human rights at Amnesty International USA.

“We’re really looking at it as an opportunity to have an audience to hear what we think about these issues right now and to impress on Google that they really need to move much faster on these issues.”

The internet censorship motion originally came from the New York City Comptroller, which looks after the pensions of city employees.

It calls on Google to “use all legal means to resist censorship” and to make it clearer to users if it has “acceded to legally binding government requests to filter or otherwise censor content that the user is trying to access”.

Google in China

Most of the criticism relates to Google’s Chinese language service Google.cn, which was launched in April 2006.

The company argued that it was better to agree to the Chinese government’s censorship rules than to refuse to service Chinese customers altogether.

Since then, companies such as Google, Microsoft and Yahoo! have got together with Amnesty and other organisations and experts to form a multi stakeholder initiative on internet and human rights.

But Amnesty says that much more needs to be done.

“There are often national laws or opportunities within the law in China to stand up against requests by officials to do this kind of censorship and the companies like Google have just complied very easily,” Ms O’Meara says.

“They haven’t even tried from what we can tell.”

Google’s defence

Google is opposing the motion, on the grounds that its operations in China are already improving transparency and helping Chinese people access information.

It argues that adopting the proposal would hurt its users and business because it would have to close down Google.cn.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Peace Corps: Senegal

by Mark Leirer
Global Studies, 2006

March 4, 2008

It seems that as I am getting deeper into my service, I am becoming more and more reluctant to get myself down in front of a computer to write out what has been going on. It is not that there is a shortage of things to share; I just cannot seem to get myself to formulate my thoughts on paper. I have been trying to understand what my time thus far has meant to me and how I will go about finishing one more year of service. Now that I am past the year mark, I feel like I have come to the next hurdle. My work is going well and I have been busy doing a lot of other stuff on the side, but I can't help and notice the physical and emotional fatigue. At the moment, I seem to be in search of a renewed energy and motivation to continue what I have been doing. Maybe, finally getting myself down in front of this screen will do me some good.

I am going to start way back just to fill you all in on some of the cool things that have passed. I will keep the update short and talk more about my main work at the moment and my feelings on being in the Peace Corps.



Mark Leirer, his sister and mother with Ladji, his wife, and baby Marta, named in honor of Mark's mother.

Back in March of last year, my Senegalese counterpart, Ladji, and his wife had a baby. When a woman is pregnant in the village, nobody talks about it until the baby is born because they believe it will jinx the birth. I had noticed that she was getting quite large and I did not want to ask about it, so I decided I would just wait until they told me. On the 17th of March, their beautiful baby girl was born. As a sign of respect to me, they asked if they could name the baby after my mother. When a newborn comes into the world, the family decides on a name for the child and it is usually chosen to show respect to the person whose name they choose. Before the name of the child can be uttered, the village has a naming ceremony to make it official. All the villagers gather and the family shares kola nuts with the adults, candies with the children and those that attend give a small coin for the health of the child. The kid has his or her head shaved and is passed around while the name is uttered. Now every time I go over to Ladji's compound I get to see little baby Marta.

At the end of May and the first two weeks of June, I had decided to get a bit of respite from my work and took a little vacation to the coast of Senegal and then to Budapest, before I went full force into the rainy season. Every May, there is a Jazz festival in St. Louis. St. Louis is a city on the coast of Senegal, known for its beautiful beaches and colonial style downtown. I spent three nights there enjoying the music, food and nightlife before I had to be in Dakar for my flight to Budapest. Originally I was going to go by myself, but last minute my good friend Ben decided he would come with me and bought a ticket. I am not going to go into details about the trip to Budapest, even though it was ridiculously good fun. Ben and I were there for two weeks and stayed at my grandmother's house. My parents were also there; it was really nice to see them and refreshing to be out of Africa for a bit.

June, July and August were the most brutal months that I have had in the country. It is the hottest time of year and also our season of work. Up until the rain came, it was as if time stopped and my body became consumed with a feeling of lethargy. Days seem to go on forever, nights are sleepless and mornings are listless. Kapuscinski described it as the African depression; it gets into your bones and if you have lived through it once you will never forget it. Nobody goes outside from the afternoon till the evening. Work is done in the early morning and in the evening when the sun is not as intense. The time in between, I spent wiping sweat from my body and drinking water nonstop, as I tried to read and keep my mind from being consumed with the unbearable heat. I think I drank up to 8 liters of water a day to stay hydrated. To stay cool throughout the day, I would pour buckets of water over myself. It was a hard few months and quite the test of endurance. To make things even more difficult, my counterpart who I run our garden with had to leave to the capital to have surgery because he had gotten a hernia. I was left alone to run the garden and prepare for growing field crops, which I have never done before. Since I was not sure how long it would take for Ladji to recover from surgery, I decided I would do what was necessary to get the garden ready for the

ALUMNI UPDATE

Peace Corps: Senegal (continued from page 15)

rainy season. During the really hot months the plants need a ton of water to keep them from dying, so we generally grow a lot less stuff and spend the time preparing new spaces for when the rain comes.

Doing the field crops for the first time ever was a very interesting experience. Here I am, a college graduate, who studied global issues, who has never worked on a farm before, let alone grown field crops, and I am supposed to help these villagers improve the techniques they use? It suffices to say that the situation quickly humbled me and forced me to reevaluate. I decided that it would be best for me to use the first rainy season to observe what the farmers were doing, what kind of techniques they used and resources they had. Based on my observations I would try and think up ways to do it better next season. All in all, (with the weather aside) things turned out pretty well and I learned a lot about what it takes to have successful crops.

The weather during this rainy season was quite an interesting phenomenon to watch. To start, the rains were very late this year and did not arrive until the beginning of August. The first rains that came were torrential downpours that flooded the whole basin around my village. It got to the point where I was able to swim from the edge of the village out to where our garden was. Within a week, the rain stopped and then came only sporadically. This was very problematic for the farmers because the crops went from being flooded to not having enough water by the end of the season. It is amazing to see the direct effects that global warming is having on Western Africa. It seems to me that it will be only a short time before regions, like the one I live in right now, will become uninhabitable due to the lack of water. Temperatures are rising every year, rainfall is less and less, and deforestation is widespread. It is a saddening thought to think that all the efforts made by villagers and volunteers may be in vain. Even though that is not a reason to stop trying to make life better for the here and the now, it is still a reality that cannot be ignored.

I will move on to describing one of my largest projects that I just finished. Since I am writing this in retrospect, some things I say and opinions I have may change because of experiences of which I was a part. [I started out this update discussing] getting over the hurdle of the year mark and my search for renewed energy and motivation. Now that I have had some time to reflect over my last project and have seen the reactions of the locals and the community at large, I feel like I have gained more perspective on the purpose of my being here.

I had been working on trying to get an eye clinic organized for the department of Bakel. After much writing back and forth with Judith Simon, the leader of Right to Sight and Health, (the non-profit I was trying to get to come to do the clinic), we decided on a date and I began the process of getting everything ready. As my neighbor, Aaron, and I sat down and began to map out how we would organize the whole clinic, we slowly started to realize the magnitude of the endeavor we were undertaking. Bakel was decided upon as the best location to do the clinic. There is a legitimate hospital in Bakel with running water and electricity; it is also easily accessible for most villages in the department. It was at this point that Aaron and I went from being volunteers to official ass kissing bureaucrats. If you want to get anything



Photo courtesy of Mark Leirer.

done in Africa, the cardinal rules are to please everyone and exclude no one. For the three months leading up to clinic, we divided our time between going back and forth to Bakel to have meetings with the hospital, visiting all the villages in the department, going to Dakar to meet with the Ministry of Health and meeting with Peace Corps to see how they could help. Finally, after months of prep work we had the hospital ready to go, the Ministry of Health behind us, Peace Corps provided us with a car to transport the team and equipment, lodging and food was ready, all the villages were informed and the radio was mentioning the clinic daily. Lastly, we had 11 volunteers to come help make the operation run smoothly. There was the plus bonus that my mom and sister came for the whole two weeks of clinic to help.

After three sleepless nights of going to the airport to pick up the team, get the cars organized and getting to Bakel, the clinic started without any problem. I was so dead by the time clinic started, I could not have been more thankful that I had a big group of volunteers to help out. The two weeks of clinic passed by very nicely. We had a nice Christmas dinner all together and even managed to get together a New Year's bash. It was really nice having my mom and sister here in Senegal during the holidays; it definitely helped brighten my spirits.



Mark Leirer at the clinic with two successful patients.

By the end of clinic, we had seen about 1,800 patients and performed 70 surgeries, been published in the Senegal-wide newspaper and several local radio stations had been talking about the clinic. The outcome was immensely successful. A million thanks go out to Aaron for keeping me sane through the whole process, to Judith for deciding to come and do the surgeries, to all the volunteers and of course to my beautiful mother and sister. The most rewarding part of the whole thing would come in the weeks after clinic when people in the village and in town would stop and say how thankful they were for the clinic. It was especially interesting hearing from one of the more respected guys in the village. He said that even if people do not come up to me and say that they are thankful for the project, they now have faith in the things I say and will have even more respect for my future endeavors.

Since the clinic has been over, I decided to take a little time to myself before I jump into the last two big projects that I would like to accomplish before the end of my service. This past week I was at a four day long West African softball tournament in Dakar. It is organized by the

US embassy in Dakar and is for all of Peace Corps in West Africa. A bunch of countries like Mali, Mauritania, Gambia, Guinea, all the Americans that work for the embassy and the Marines, have teams and we play with each other in a huge softball tournament. It is four days of beer drinking, hot dogs and softball. It is one of the major events of the year for volunteers. It is a nice time to meet volunteers from other countries and to see volunteers in Senegal that we do not get to see often.

Now that I am back from the week of debauchery, I would like to start getting all the logistics worked out for my last two projects. My goal is to have both of them in place before this next rainy season starts. That way I will be around for at least a few more months after the projects are in place and can make sure that things will stay functional once I am gone. The first of these two projects is going to be putting a small pharmacy in place for the village. Basically, I am trying to create a health management committee for the village that will be responsible for running and maintaining the pharmacy, and also to help sensitize the community to different health events. About 13 km from my village is a health post that is responsible for the health needs of the zone in which my village is located. A health post is basically a smaller version of a hospital. For example, the health post that is near me comes about every two months to my village to do things like vaccinate babies, give out vitamins and dip mosquito nets. The only problem is that there is no one responsible for the health needs of the village; villagers are never aware when the dates are, and no one shows up for the free care.

The health committee will consist of a president, a secretary and treasurer, who will help with the running of the pharmacy. Also, there will be two female and male youths, who I am hoping to have trained to take on the role of sensitizing the village to different health events and also to be replacements for the pharmacy. During a village-wide meeting, the community will be picking the people they believe are competent for the job; I will have no role in selecting the people for the positions. The president is the only position that is already chosen, because he is the only person in the village who is trained to give out basic medication.

I told the villagers that if they are able to hold a community-wide meeting, select people for the jobs, and find a space for the pharmacy, then I would stock the pharmacy with the first round of medications. They will be able to use the revenue they receive from the meds to continue buying new stocks.

Google Faces Human Rights Votes (continued from page 14)

“We see technology companies continue to have very vague policies around human rights and frequent violations of their own policies.”

Jack Ucciferri,
Harrington Investments

In the past year, it has also been trying to persuade US trade officials to treat censorship like any other barrier to trade.

A similar resolution at last year's shareholders' meeting received 3.8% of shareholder votes.

Board committee

The second motion calls for the board of directors to form a human rights committee.

It was proposed by Harrington Investments, a California-based investment manager, which has proposed a similar motion at several other big technology companies.

The idea is to stress that human rights are an issue for the board of directors, not just the management.

“Management is relatively transient in nature. Executives, ‘sustainability officers’ etc. can be hired and fired on a dime,” says Jack Ucciferri, research and advocacy director at Harrington.

“If the directors don't formally engage issues, then any other program, policy, or procedure is essentially meaningless in terms of assuring shareholders that these issues are being taken seriously.”

Taking the lead

Google believes that its directors are already spending lots of time thinking about human rights and that this motion would not encourage them to pay greater attention to it.

It argues that its directors are engaging with governments to raise awareness about the negative effects of limiting online freedom.

Harrington is actually very enthusiastic about the company and sees its motion as a good opportunity for Google to take the lead on a big issue and create even more value for shareholders.

But the proposals are clearly also a warning to directors about what will happen if human rights issues become problematic.

“We see technology companies continue to have very vague policies around human rights and frequent violations of their own policies,” Mr Ucciferri says.

“If boards of directors truly understood the repercussions to the brand and the corporation then they would not tolerate it, they should not tolerate it and if they did tolerate it they should be held accountable.”

Image transformation

Google declined to be interviewed about the shareholder motions.

It is a company whose public image has undergone a transformation in recent months.

It used to be the popular little search engine company battling against the big boys such as Microsoft.

The ultimately unsuccessful attempt by Microsoft to buy Yahoo! has changed all that.

Google has now been characterised as the giant of online advertising that other players have to manoeuvre to compete with.

The company may find that, as a result, its efforts to “do no evil” will come under even greater scrutiny in coming years.

RELATED LINKS:

BBC NEWS (originally published May 7, 2008)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/business/7386426.stm>

Peace Corps: Senegal (continued from page 17)

The second project is one that my sister, Michelle, and I came up with together. She is in her last two quarters of college and has to do a final senior project, so I proposed to her that we come up with one that can get her project done and help out my community as well. While she and my mom were here for the clinic, we decided that the best project would be to raise funds in the States to help build another classroom for the village elementary school. Currently, there is only enough space for the grades K-5; we want to build one more building so that the school could go all the way to sixth grade. She would be in charge of running the fundraising in the States and I will help her build a portfolio to use at the fundraising. A buddy of mine, who was a film student, has put together a small film that Michelle can use as part of her fundraising. Hopefully, if all goes well, she will be able to raise enough money to complete the school.

Working on those two projects should take me up to June, and then I am off to America for vacation. After my visit, it is pretty much downhill for me until the end of my service. One last rainy season, then packing up shop and seeing where the wind will take me next.

I will [conclude] with some thoughts on what Peace Corps has been to me and clear up misconceptions I think people at home have about what we are doing here. I recently read a brief quote from an op-ed piece in the *New York Times* by a former Peace Corps country director in Cameroon: "The Peace Corps has long shipped out well-meaning young people possessing little more than good intentions and a college diploma." This single sentence stuck out to me and got me thinking further on an idea that I had been developing since I got to this country. The idea was a question that I had posed to myself: "Can Peace Corps really be considered a development agency?" In my mind, I do not think that the quote is too misleading in what it says; it is true that the majority of the people that are in Peace Corps are recent college graduates without any professional skills and far outweigh those here that are professionally skilled.

Having been here for over a year now and having seen many fresh new volunteers arrive, hearing their frustrations and complaints, I have gotten a little bit closer to articulating what this whole experience is about. When joining Peace Corps, it seems that many people either have the delusion that they are embarking on some grandiose mission to save the world or they are unsure where life is taking them and see the experience as a good time to find out. This youthful idealism combined with no real skill set and the proverbial rhetoric they pump us full of during training, gives many volunteers the expectations of an experience that is far from reality. The reality of the situation is that volunteers are entering into a country with a set of cultural values completely opposite to what we have grown up in our whole lives. It is a world grounded in traditions, superstitions, and beliefs that many, even after two years of service, will never come to understand. These are enormous odds in and of themselves; now combine this with very little agency funding for projects; little institutional memory and you are facing huge odds.



Photo courtesy of Mark Leirer.

The truth of the matter is that just adjusting to a new community and culture is a big enough task for most volunteers during their service. Volunteers who actually come to these different countries, learn the language, adjust to the culture and actually do projects that are useful or beneficial to their communities, are fewer than those who just do the cultural component of their service. In my opinion, this is not a problem, it is just a reality that needs to be made really clear to those people who want to join. To me, what it comes down to is that these two years here are a sort of development work boot camp of sorts. If you can really hack two years of service and get a good thing or two done and then go back to the States and still be interested in this kind of work, you are going to be one of the most qualified individuals for the job. If this agency were really trying to be a development specific group, then why would there be organizations like USAID? I pose that question because USAID is the agency that is in charge of all major development work done in poor countries by the US. They have a real budget that is appropriated yearly by Congress for specific projects and developed by skilled development workers. It is the kind of job that someone who got a lot out of the Peace Corps experience would be great at doing if they would combine their experience with some graduate level course work in development.

It is hard trying to tell people at home that what we are doing here is not some noble mission to save the Earth. It is an opportunity that we were all fortunate to have been offered; to search our hearts without anyone breathing down our necks, to see if this is the kind of work we should be doing in the future or if another career choice would be wiser. In all sincerity, I consider this an extension of the privileges that life has offered me. It is a chance to really take the time to understand who I am and what my limits are and of course we must not forget that this is all possible with the gracious help of all you beautiful taxpayers. At least some money is not being spent on bombs.

Alumni Update

Cody Larson **Global Studies, 2005**

It is with great pleasure that I write you as a 2005 graduate from UCSB in the Global Studies department to tell you of my utilization of the knowledge I gained from you and the rest of the faculty. Just four months ago, I returned from fourteen months working in the Meheba Refugee Settlement in Zambia as a project manager for an international development organization called FORGE. FORGE focuses on the implementation of projects that empower refugees through business management education and micro loans, computer education, HIV/AIDS awareness, nursery and primary education, advocacy initiatives, gender equality, and vocational training. We work in three of Zambia's four refugee camps as an operational partner of the UNHCR [The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees] and we work with refugees from Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, and Sudan.

Now that I have returned from the field, I have taken up a position as an international operations consultant, but I will spend a great deal of time working on fundraising for future expansion of the organization.

Kristian Beadle **Global Studies, 2003**

I just finished my first year at the Bren School (one more to go), it's been really great.

In June, I was in Mexico, near Zihuatanejo, doing research at an ecoresort for my group project (masters thesis). We're looking at property development in Latin America, since there are few government regulations (or they are poorly enforced) and the environmental and social impacts are many. If you want to check out the work, here is our site: www.coastalecoventures.com.

Right now, I'm actually at an internship for Conservation International in the Galapagos Islands. I'm doing work for one of their projects in the far northern islands of the archipelago, which is a major breeding ground for hammerheads and whale sharks, as well as one of the last remaining stretches of coral in the area (after the El Niños they got wiped out). I've got some pictures and stories on my blog at www.indythink.com.

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