

GO GLOBAL

Newsletter for the Global & International Studies Program and the Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies
University of California, Santa Barbara

A New Home for Global

The Global and International Studies Program moved its location at the end of August 2009 to the brand new Social Sciences and Media Studies Building. Located on one wing of the second floor, the new space provides offices for all our regular teaching faculty, together with additional offices to accommodate visiting faculty, teaching assistants, and our indispensable support staff. The wing also includes three separate and very attractive seminar or conference rooms, a student lounge, a mail room, and a kitchen and storage room. Compared with the space we formerly occupied in the Humanities and Social Sciences Building, which compelled us to house half our faculty in another building some distance away and obliged at least one member of the staff to work from the mail and copying room, our new setting is the envy of many of our colleagues across campus. We now possess updated media equipment

which can be used in course presentations in two of our meeting rooms, and the wide hallways have turned into gathering places for casual conversations as well as thoroughfares between classes. Those same hallways will soon be graced with poster-sized photographs that accentuate the global from around the world; the images were contributed by Global Studies students, staff, and faculty. Additional artwork includes an impressive world wall map in our seminar room.

It feels good to all of us to be together in one place and this larger space has in turn afforded many of our Masters students with an excuse to hang out in or return to our building when they are not otherwise occupied in classes or working in the library. We hope that alumni and friends will pay us a visit when they are in the area; you'll all be able to feel the new electricity and excitement.



Giles Gunn
Professor and Chair
Global & International Studies



Richard Appelbaum Recipient of MacArthur Foundation Chair

Richard Appelbaum has been named to one of two John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Chairs at UCSB. He and UCSB history professor Nelson Lichtenstein will pursue joint programming and research focused on the theme of "Human Rights in the Workplace: At Home and Abroad."

The MacArthur Foundation Chairs are among seven chairs funded by a UC systemwide endowment from the MacArthur Foundation. The endowment was established in 2009 for the purpose of supporting research, public service, and teaching that promotes the objectives of the Foundation. These include working to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places, and understand how technology affects children and society.

Appelbaum and Lichtenstein will receive the returns on two \$1 million endowments over five years to support
See Appelbaum, continued on page 2

Appelbaum, continued from cover

teaching, research, and public service activities. At the end of five years, the UCSB's two endowed chairs will be redistributed to other UC campuses.

Scholarly activities Appelbaum and Lichtenstein will pursue as MacArthur Foundation Chairs include an evaluation of the International Labor Organization and its work; a historical and comparative look at guest worker programs; and an examination of evolving labor conditions, laws, and enforcement in emerging economies.



Pictured left to right: Mark Juergensmeyer, Director of the Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies; Prince Moulay Hicham; Richard Falk; and UCSB Chancellor Henry Yang.

Global Climate Change, Human Security and Democracy Project

On March 8, 2010, the Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies launched the project: *Global Climate Change, Human Security and Democracy*. A private reception was held at the University House at UCSB to welcome the project's sponsor, Prince Moulay Hicham of Morocco.

Funded in large part by a generous gift from the Prince, the project will present findings and policy recommendations relevant for lessening the harmful human effects of anticipated global warming. It will be led by Global & International Studies Research Professors Richard Falk and Hilal Elver, and conducted at UCSB in the Division of Social Sciences, Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies.

GO GLOBAL

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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.



WE'VE MOVED!

Global & International Studies is now located in the recently constructed Social Sciences & Media Studies Building, on the second floor.

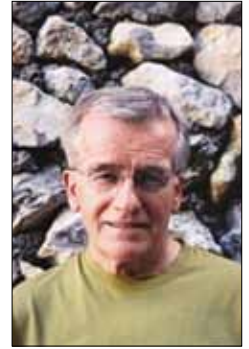
FACULTY NEWS

Benjamin J. Cohen, Louis G. Lancaster Professor of International Political Economy, has given many talks this academic year, including:

- **"The Transatlantic Divide in IPE Revisited"**
London School of Economics (London, England; December 2009)
- **"The Future of the International Monetary System"**
Royal Institute of International Affairs (London, England; December 2009)
- **"Why Don't Constructivists Live in Kansas?"**
Warwick University (Warwick, England; December 2009)
- **"Finance and Security in East Asia"**
Royal Institute of International Affairs (London, England; April 2010)
- **"The Coming Global Monetary (Dis)Order"**
London School of Economics (London, England; April 2010);
Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences-Po; Paris, France; April 2010)
- **"Finance and Security in East Asia"**
University of Amsterdam (Amsterdam, Netherlands; April 2010);
Chinese Foundation for International Strategic Studies (Beijing, China; July 2010)
- **"Currency and State Power"**
National Chengchi University (Taipei, Taiwan; June 2010)



Giles Gunn, Chair of Global and International Studies, has just received a residential fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation to spend a month at its world famous study center on Lake Como in Bellagio, Italy. One of twelve scholars, composers, artists, and writers selected from around the world, he will be working on a new book entitled *Ideas to Die For: Critical Cosmopolitanism in an Era of Global Absolutisms*. A second book project of his, coedited with English Department Professor Carl Gutierrez-Jones, has just been published by the University of California Press entitled *America and the Misshaping of a New World Order*. Giles Gunn's introductory essay for the volume, which also includes an essay by Global Studies colleague **Mark Juergensmeyer**, is entitled "The Place of Culture in the Play of International Politics."



Christopher Kollmeyer, former UCSB Global & International Studies faculty fellow and current lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of Aberdeen (Scotland) is a recipient of a Leverhulme Research Fellowship. The award will provide funds for a one-year sabbatical, a research assistant, and a travel stipend for conferences.

Global Studies Welcomes Professor Eve Darian-Smith



I am delighted to be in the Global & International Studies Program and join a wonderful group of faculty, students and visitors engaged in many of the driving issues and concerns of the 21st century. Very briefly, I practiced corporate law in Australia before coming to the United States to pursue graduate degrees in anthropology at Harvard and the University of Chicago. I think of myself as an interdisciplinary scholar who works on the relationship between law and culture. In my work I give particular attention to the application of human rights with respect to racial minorities, as well as the shifting concepts of sovereignty, nationalism and the nation-state in a global political economy. I have published a wide variety of books, edited volumes and articles. I am currently working on two new book projects: *Laws and Societies: Contemporary Issues/Global Approaches* (Cambridge University Press), and *New Indian Wars: The Challenge of Indigenous Sovereignty*.

INSIDE THE ORFALEA CENTER

ORFALEA CENTER REPORTS BUSY YEAR OF ACTIVITY

BY VICTOR FAESSEL AND EKHLAS SALAMA

2009 was a year of intense international outreach, event planning, workshops, and collaborations for the Orfalea Center. Below is a summary of the Center's principal activities of last year, with a glance forward to some current, ongoing, and upcoming activities.

UN University Collaborations

A planning meeting of the Orfalea Center-UN University joint "Project on Global Futures: The Transnational World of 2030," was held in New Delhi in February 2009. Project leaders from the Tokyo head-



Participants in the 2030 Global Futures project meeting in New Delhi, February 2009: (standing) Vinay Lal, Hilal Elver, Victor Faessel, George Mathew, Smitu Kothari, Nivedita Menon, Nick Turner, Vesselin Popovski, Ashis Nandy; (seated) Bidyut Mohanty, Chandra Muzaffar, Mark Juergensmeyer, Richard Falk (not shown: Manoranjan Mohanty, Radha Kumar, Neera Chandhoke, Rajeev Bhargava). Co-organized by the Orfalea Center and the UN University.

quarters of UN University joined Richard Falk, project director and UCSB Distinguished Visiting Professor, along with Orfalea Center Director Mark Juergensmeyer at the meeting, which was attended by a dozen leading Indian intellectuals. The idea was to focus on global issues confronting the world in the next 20 years for which transnational solutions are being, or are likely to be sought. Presentations explored concerns over such issues as global climate change, the eroding confidence in the nation-state, the rise of religious nationalism and transnationalism, and the capacity of international organizations such as the UN to deal with these and other new crises. The discussions were held at the India International Centre and locally sponsored by the Center for Developing Societies headquartered in New Delhi. This meeting took place in conjunction with a major conference, co-sponsored by the Orfalea Center, on "Social Development and the Human Civilization in the 21st Century," celebrating the 100-year centennial of the publication of Gandhi's seminal work *Hind Swaraj* ("Indian Home Rule").

The follow-up meeting of participants in the 2030 Project planning discussions will convene in New Delhi on September 16-17, 2010. Papers on topics proposed at the 2009 Delhi gathering are to be presented and discussed, and will form chapters of what should emerge as a publishable series of multi-disciplinary interpretations from different cultural perspectives, policy priorities, and empirical assessments. The overriding aim of the four-year project is to consider future challenges given current trends and alternative scenarios projected to the year 2030.

In June of this year a new phase of the project will be launched at a two-day workshop to be held at UCSB. The event is tentatively titled "The World in 2030: Geopolitics & Global Climate Change" and is being organized to coincide with the start of a new grant-funded research project, housed at the Orfalea Center, looking at the impact of global climate change on human security and democratic process around the world. Richard Falk and UCSB visiting professor Hilal Elver are the principal investigators of this multi-year study.

Finally, an edited volume consisting of material from an earlier jointly-organized conference, held at UCSB in 2007, has been accepted for publication by Oxford University Press. The volume is edited by Falk, Juergensmeyer, and Vesselin Popovski, director of the UN University's Peace and Governance program, and focuses on problems of legality and legitimacy in diverse contexts of international intervention. It is expected to appear in spring 2011.

Envisioning a Different Future for U.S. Relations with India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan

This policy seminar/workshop was organized to explore academic perspectives on U.S. policy in the South Asia region, particularly India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, both historically and in its contemporary setting. The workshop was organized by Orfalea Center visiting scholars Manoranjan Mohanty and Mona Sheikh, who have considerable expertise in the region, along with Orfalea Center di-



Audience and participants in the Orfalea Center's May 2009 policy seminar "Envisioning a Different Future for U.S. Relations with India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan" held at UCSB.

rector Mark Juergensmeyer and UCSB visiting professor Richard Falk. Scholars with specialization in the region, including invitees from Columbia University, the University of Chicago, Notre Dame, and UCLA, attended the one-day intensive workshop. A summary of the meeting and its recommendations was published as an Orfalea Center report, and the entire workshop was video recorded for broadcast nationally on UCTV; it is accessible at any time in the video archives of the Orfalea Center on the UCTV website. A summary of some of the policy recommendations was also put into an Op-Ed essay authored by Juergensmeyer, Falk, and Mohanty, which was published in the Huffington Post and widely circulated nationally.



Orfalea Center Visiting Research Scholar and meeting co-organizer Mona Kanwal Sheikh with seminar invitee Cynthia Mahmood (University of Notre Dame), listening to a presentation at the “Envisioning a Different Future for U.S. Relations with India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan” event, May 2009.

Luce Project on Religion and Global Civil Society

The Orfalea Center convened a meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as part of the Latin America focus of its 4-year project funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. The August gathering of scholars, NGO leaders, and policy experts working at the interface of religion and humanitarian aid in the Argentine setting was organized with the hospitality of the Universidad del CEMA and the assistance of UCSB professor of sociology, Fernando Lopez-Alves. (See separate report on the Center’s Luce project in this issue.)

Global Studies Consortium

The Orfalea Center represented UCSB at the second annual meeting of the Global Studies Consortium, held in Leipzig, Germany in October 2009. Representatives of more than 20 institutions participated in the two-day gathering of graduate degree programs in global and transnational studies from Asia, Africa, North America, and Europe. The international consortium grew out of an Orfalea Center workshop held in spring 2007 in order to network and build institutional relationships, encourage student and faculty exchanges, dis-

cuss curriculums, internships, and career prospects, and share perspectives on the rapidly growing field of global studies. The Orfalea Center serves as unofficial office of record for the consortium, whose first official meeting was convened in Tokyo in May 2008 at Sophia University, a consortium member. In 2010, the annual meeting of the Global Studies Consortium was hosted by the Orfalea Center and held at UCSB this past April. (See separate article in this issue.)

Rethink Afghanistan / Rethinking U.S. Policy Toward South Asia

On December 3, 2009, the Orfalea Center presented a free screening of the documentary film *Rethink Afghanistan* together with a panel discussion on US policy related to the war in Afghanistan. The event, co-sponsored by the UCSB Human Rights Group, was held at the Isla Vista Theater. A first screening of the film was followed by the panel discussion with Global & International Studies professors Richard Falk and Mark Juergensmeyer along with Peter Boraas, a former UCSB global studies student and veteran of tours with the US Army in both Afghanistan and Iraq. The film was screened again after the panel, which generated considerable question-and-answer exchange with a large audience. Organized by Masters in Global & International Studies graduate student Jack Ucciferri and the Orfalea Center’s program director Victor Faessel, the event coincided with the publication of the Center’s policy seminar report and related Op-Ed in the Huffington Post dealing with US policy in South Asia, and took place within days of President Obama’s December 2009 announcement of revised goals for the US military engagement in Afghanistan. Visit the film’s website at rethinkafghanistan.com.

Encyclopedia of Global Studies

The Orfalea Center continues to coordinate the development of a 3-4 volume Encyclopedia of Global Studies for Sage Publications, under the general editorship of Mark Juergensmeyer and Helmut Anheier (UCLA, University of Heidelberg). The Orfalea Center’s Program Director, Victor Faessel, serves as Managing Editor of the encyclopedia. This Sage project is the first under development for the academic field of global studies, integrating diverse approaches to current and emerging transnational issues and seeking to educate and equip future citizens and leaders to effectively confront the challenges of a changing world. The Encyclopedia of Global Studies charts out some of the main contours of the field, presenting state-of-the-art research and useful facts to a readership of students, teachers, and professionals. Publication is anticipated in 2011.

Global Lunch Colloquium Series

Since Fall 2006, the Orfalea Center has provided for the general campus community a regular lunchtime lecture series offering presentations on issues related to global and international studies. On several occasions these speakers have met separately with students of the Masters in Global & International Studies program, and many

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ORFALEA CENTER CONVENES UC-WIDE AND INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL STUDIES MEETINGS

BY VICTOR FAESSEL

In a significant contribution to networking and the exchange of perspectives within the field of global and transnational studies, the Orfalea Center hosted summits of global studies scholars at back-to-back events in April 2010. The meetings were held at UCSB's Loma Pelona Center, overlooking the lagoon.

On Friday April 23, leaders of centers and academic programs in global, international, and transnational studies from across the University of California convened for a first of its kind System-wide workshop. Representatives from units at Berkeley, Santa Cruz, Los Angeles, Irvine, and Riverside, joined by region officers of the UC Education Abroad Program, came together with UCSB Global & International Studies faculty to discuss the current state of teaching and research in their respective campus settings. The one-day meeting was also structured with a thematic emphasis, "Considering the Global South," to provide a focus for the exchange of ideas on what global studies (GS) is and how it is carried out on each campus.

The meeting's discussions were lively and the viewpoints, unsurprisingly, diverse. A major theme of conversation centered on the view shared by many in the "global south" (itself an unstable and contested term) that global studies — an academic field established in the "north" — basically promotes the neoliberal globalization agenda identified with the United States and its economic allies. Despite the range of vantage points expressed in discussions, attendees broadly agreed that GS requires interdisciplinary methods and multi-level frames of analysis, difficult as these are to unify, for understanding social, cultural, economic, and other phenomena that are largely transnational in nature and interrelated in complex ways. The unique character of the individual GS programs and centers represented at the meeting reflects distinct institutional situations with their academic and faculty strengths, administrative structures, existing networks, and ongoing collaborative relationships.

The UC-wide meeting was arranged to also provide an opportunity for interaction between UC and international GS scholars. Members of the Global Studies Consortium, comprised of graduate (Masters,

PhD) degree programs in global and transnational studies around the world, gathered for the Consortium's third annual meeting on April 24-25. Participants from the Philippines, India, and Australia joined the two Friday panels dedicated to the global south theme, and

responded to the presentations from the perspective of their local/regional setting. Discussion was enriched with viewpoints on the theme by Consortium meeting attendees from China and South Korea.

The Global Studies Consortium grew out of an Orfalea Center-sponsored meeting of several American and overseas graduate GS programs held at UCSB in 2007. It convenes every year at a member campus; past meetings have been held at Sophia University in Tokyo (2008) and the University of Leipzig in Germany (2009). Bids to

host next year's meeting are being prepared by existing or developing programs at RMIT in Melbourne, Shanghai University, and Hanyang University in Seoul. The Consortium is currently comprised of roughly 20 core members although representatives from another 10-15 programs regularly attend, as do observers from several academic programs under development. The Consortium aims to promote and facilitate graduate teaching programs in global studies and to foster cooperation among them. It includes programs that are transnational, transcultural, global/local, world systems, or cross area in scope, and that are hospitable to interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches within the humanities and social sciences.



"Global Studies in the University of California System: Considering the Global South" invited UC participants (l to r): Chris Chase-Dunn (Riverside), Kent Eaton (Santa Cruz), Deborah Avant (Irvine), Mark Juergensmeyer (UCSB), John Agnew (Los Angeles), Chhibber Pradeep (Berkeley), Giles Gunn (UCSB).

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of the talks were arranged in conjunction with the MA program. Speakers come to us from a variety of backgrounds, regions, areas of expertise, and disciplines. Among the 2009 speakers were: US Ambassador Derek Shearer; Africare President, Julius Cole; author and former Washington Post journalist Robin Wright; UC-Riverside professor and Middle East commentator Reza Aslan; United Nations World Water Program leader Engin Koncagul; and independent international journalist, Keith Harmon Snow.

ORFALEA CENTER'S LUCE PROJECT ROUNDS OUT YEAR-TWO ACTIVITIES

BY DINAH VAN WINGERDEN

In fall 2008 the Orfalea Center was recipient of a significant grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to examine the role of religion in global civil society. The purpose of this project is to develop resources for leadership training on issues relating to religion and the work of international non-governmental humanitarian organizations (international NGOs). The project, currently in its second year, plans to accomplish this in three ways:

- by bringing scholars and practitioners together, so that faculty associated with graduate teaching programs can interact with NGO leaders to identify the real-life issues relating to religion that are important in the field, and suggest ways of dealing with them;
- by developing curriculum and resource materials that will be available through printed handbooks and accessible online via the project's website; and



Background, left to right: Katherine Marshall, Berkley Center, Georgetown University; Otto Maduro, Drew University; Toby Volkman. Foreground: Cecelia Lynch, University of California, Irvine and James Wellman, Jackson School, University of Washington.

- by infusing the study of religion into the curriculum of UC-SB's own graduate program in global and international studies in order to provide a model to other international affairs programs that provide international NGO training.

A series of annual workshops commenced in 2009, affording practitioners and scholars the opportunity to engage with specific issues and problems in different regions of the world.

Two major workshops and one smaller in-country workshop have already taken place. The first was held in May 2009, devoted solely to networking among representatives of international affairs programs in the US that offer international NGO leadership training. The meeting provided a forum for academics to learn from one another and make certain that the project has a wide impact.

In August 2009, Orfalea Center Director Mark Juergensmeyer and Giles Gunn, Chair of the Global & International Studies program, were invited to a conference at Universidad del CEMA in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This presented the opportunity for an in-country Luce project workshop to be organized. Representatives from leading NGOs operating in Argentina and scholars from UCEMA were able to attend and share their perspectives on the role of religion in their country. This deeper study of one of Latin America's more developed countries provided valuable information and a jump-start on the first major regional workshop.



Marianne Loewe, Concern America and Kurt Frierder, Fundacion Huesped, January 2010.

Held in January 2010, this major project meeting brought together academics with expertise in Latin America and/or the Caribbean with practitioners from international NGOs working in the region. Scholars from the Berkley Center at Georgetown University, the Jackson School at the University of Washington, the University of Texas-Austin, Drew University, and several UC campuses including

[See Luce, continued on page 8](#)



Conference attendees at the Universidad del CEMA in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

MAGIS NEWS

MAGIS MEETS WITH RENOWN HUMANITARIAN GREG MORTENSON

BY JESSEA GAY MARIE

A special treat for MAGIS on May 4, 2010 when renown author and humanitarian Greg Mortenson met with Global Studies graduate students. Mortenson was in town for a sold-out appearance at the Arlington Theatre to promote his new book, *Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan*. His work to promote education through the building of schools "at the end of the road" in villages in Afghanistan and Pakistan (with a particular focus on education for girls and vocational training for women) has inspired people worldwide.



MAGIS students, Roman Baratiak, Richard Appelbaum, Giles Gunn and Jessea Marie with Greg Mortenson. (Photo by Tony Mastres.)



Greg Mortenson (Photo by Jessea Marie.)

The standing-room only gathering took place as the inaugural event in the Letters and Sciences conference room, located in the new Social Sciences and Media Studies building. After an introduction by Professor Richard Appelbaum, Mr. Mortenson spoke of his travels and the difficulties faced working in one of the most dangerous areas anywhere. The stories were timely, given that the first year graduate students are about to embark on their internships around the world, some to places that pose danger to travelers, especially Americans.

Mr. Mortenson provided the best possible example of what dedication to helping others can accomplish, and how the efforts to promote change through education, understanding, and respect can inspire others to also promote change through own efforts and/or resources. His talk followed with a Q & A session prior to graciously meeting with students to sign book copies (donated by an anonymous donor) and chat with them about their plans.

MAGIS would like to thank Mr. Mortenson for his time and wisdom, the donor for the books, and Roman Baratiak, Associate Director of UCSB's Arts & Lectures, for facilitating this event and all he does for MAGIS.

[Luce, continued from page 7](#)

UCSB engaged with a group of NGO directors from Direct Relief International, Fonkoze USA, Fundacion Huesped, Human Rights Watch, and Concern America.

The goal of the workshop was to focus on the region as a whole and to highlight the unique situations of individual countries. The event provided an opportunity for in-depth discussion of current trends around the role of religion in Latin American/Caribbean politics and on how religion factors in to the practices of international NGOs working in the region today. Practitioners shared their experiences

as they relate to the role religion plays in facilitating or hindering the delivery of humanitarian services. Scholars presented current research and perspectives on country and region-specific questions, also providing a historical overview to strengthen recognition of the influences that have shaped current realities in the region.

The next regional workshop will take place early in 2011 and will cover South Asia. To learn more about this project and read materials from the workshop please visit:

<http://www.global.ucsb.edu/orfaleacenter/luce/index.html>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING DISGUISED AS TEMP WORK

BY YVETTE CABRERA
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER COLUMNIST

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Why didn't you just run away?

That was a question an audience member, a man, posed to former sex trafficking victim Maria Suarez who spoke last fall in Costa Mesa. It's a question many wonder when they hear of cases where trafficking victims live openly in our midst.

In Suarez's case, the answer was this: She was held captive for five years in the home of an Azusa man, lured by the promise of a house cleaning job. She came in contact with neighbors and, later, with fellow employees when her captor allowed her to work in a factory. Still, she never ran away.

That dynamic — a victim who stays in a horrific situation even when escape seems possible — is often at play for trafficking victims, whether they're forced to work in a factory in Taiwan or at a brothel in Orange County.

Caroline Le of Garden Grove wanted to know why.

The answers she learned boiled down to this: It's complicated.

About two years ago — while working on her master's degree in global and international studies at UC Santa Barbara — Le flew to Taiwan to intern at a shelter for human trafficking victims. The internship had been created by the Orange County-based Vietnamese



UCSB Master of Arts in Global & International Studies graduate Caroline Le wrote her master's thesis on human trafficking in Taiwan. (Photo by Michael Goulding, Orange County Register.)

Alliance to Combat Trafficking (VietACT) in partnership with a board member, Peter Nguyen Van Hung, who runs the shelter.

To help the women and men she met at the shelter, Le first needed to connect with them as people. They watched soap operas together, played volleyball, made paper lanterns. She taught some of them a little English and how to dance the cha-cha.

But Le went a step further.

With Nguyen Van Hung's blessing, she studied case files and interviewed dozens of victims.

The stories they shared were harrowing. Beyond the forced sex and forced slave labor, the victims often were treated as less-than-human. Several factory workers told Le they were forced to live in a storage container with no ventilation, even during the blistering summer months.

Another trafficking victim, a domestic worker, told Le that she worked nonstop despite suffering from kidney problems. Her diet was primarily the family's table scraps, which usually meant fish bones, something that worsened her condition.

The shelter where Le was working as an intern was primarily for Vietnamese victims, and many who spoke with Le said they came from Vietnam's most impoverished areas. They'd been lured to other parts of Asia by promises of comparatively high-paying jobs in residential homes, factories and nursing homes. What they got instead was debt — their wages often were taken to pay the exorbitant costs charged for passage into Taiwan, sometimes as much as \$8,000 (U.S.).

"They have this huge debt on their shoulders that's building interest as the days go by," says Le, 25, who is Vietnamese American and spent more than four months in Taiwan. "It's just a horrible situation for them."



2008 VietACT intern Caroline Le leads an English class for human trafficking victims in a Taiwan shelter. (Photo by Caroline Le.)

AN ADVENTURE TO FIND MOM'S ONLY REMAINING SISTER

BY YENLY THACH STEVENS

MAGIS 2008-2010



En route to Prey Veng, crossing the river via ferry.



Street vendors approaching vehicles awaiting to board the ferry.



Houses in the Prey Veng countryside.

Before I left for Cambodia, my father gave me a small piece of paper with the address of my aunt's home, my mother's sister. On the back of it, he wrote how much money each person should get, which he sent with me to give.

I had wanted to meet my aunt — my mother's sister — for awhile now. Since my mother has neither spoken to nor seen her only living sister in over 30 years, I thought it would be a great gift if I could make this happen for her. However, every time I tried to visit or find her, my aunt's family from my father's side said it was too dangerous. Since it was the rainy season, they heard stories that Prey Veng — the province of my mother's birth place and where her sister lives — was flooded. Therefore, the roads were in bad condition. *"How do you know the roads are in bad condition? Have you been there?"* I frustratingly asked.

So my furious and curious side decided to just go to Prey Veng. Everyone else then wanted to come, too. My two aunts, one of my aunt's husband and their eldest son had never been, so they all decided to come along.

The province of Prey Veng is about 80 to 100 km from Phnom Penh. It should not have taken long to reach my aunt's house; no more than a three hour car ride to her village. The five of us took a mini 4 runner, which had air conditioning that kept us cool. Everyone was excited. I packed a few water bottles, toilet paper, and some fruits. Everyone looked at me strangely. I told them that I am used to traveling, especially to far rural places. Since I can't drink regular water, I needed to pack some with me. I was not sure if people in the villages use toilet paper but I wanted to be prepared. Everyone thought it was smart of me to be prepared.

We made it to the ferry station two hours later. It only took us about half an hour to cross the river. While waiting to get on to the ferry, I was amazed with the variety of foods being sold on the street. The vendors approached the car window, showed me their products and ask if I wanted to buy some. When I declined, they would respond, *"How much would you want it for? I can lower the price for you."* I ended up buying some food to eat and to take for my aunt and her four daughters. Some of the vendors were young. I bought the food thinking that if I bought food from these young girls, it is like helping out my aunt and her daughters. What if one of these girls was my cousin, or what if one of the women was my aunt? I just wouldn't know because I had never met her. All I know she is very poor and is raising four girls on her own.

The easy part was over. Now, we had to travel to the town and go deeper into the village. We stopped mid day to eat lunch at Prey Veng center. Meanwhile, my uncle went to ask the local people for our next destination. It went like this, *"Just look for the tall antenna and a big tree. Then you will be in the town."* I am used to this method since Costa Ricans had a similar way of finding people's homes. Of course those in the city were

unfamiliar with this method. My aunt's husband wanted to get to the right place so he asked, "What is the name of the road? What address?" The local people responded with confusion. "What Name? What road? You're kidding me right?" It is hard to find people with no address. You depend on trees, houses and buildings as landmarks. My aunt didn't know that we were coming. There was no way of contacting her. All we had was a little piece of paper with her address from many years ago.

The search took us another four to five hours. Stopping in every little town and village, I felt the whole time we were going in circles. It was getting dark, but I was determined to at least see my aunt and where she lived, even if I could not stay and spend time with her. Despite the long search; I fell in love with Prey Veng's country side. It is true, like people had been saying; the water covers some of the houses and the roads. I was fascinated with the homes in the countryside. They are built tall. What I mean is that the homes had six legs which supported it above the water. The legs are 6 feet to 10 feet above the ground. The reason is obvious: in case the village is flooded, the homes would be above the water so it wouldn't be flooded. The roofs and walls of the houses are made out of thatches and bamboos. To think about it, it reminds me of the time my father built our house out of bamboos in one of the refugee camps we lived in.

Along the roads, miles of endless water covered the farmers' rice paddies, cows, ox, and palm trees. The palm trees had coconuts unlike in California. The fresh cool wind blew my hair as I rolled down the window to smell the various plants and animal dung.

At every stop it would take us about 10 to 15 minutes to chat and ask for directions. I think we stopped more than 15 times. It was hard to find my aunt's house since there was no address or phone number to contact her. What if we get there and she does not live there anymore? We left at 8:30am and at this point, it was 7:00pm.

Almost twelve hours later, we finally found my aunt's village. We would ask, "Excuse me, do you know a woman named Chanthan?" No one seemed to know, except a local nurse who'd heard that name before. He said, "Chanthan is in the United State but Chantol, her sister, lives here." I told him Chanthan is my mother. Excited that someone



had heard of my mother, we followed him through the "cow road," as they called it. The red dirt road, covered with water and footprints of cows and bulls, did not permit us move fast or have a smooth ride.

The day or week before I went and searched for my aunt, people would ask where I was going that weekend. I would tell them that I was going to Prey Veng. They were shock and said, "Why? It is such a poor province." When we arrived to my aunt's village, they were right. I had never seen such poverty and poor living conditions until tonight. The village was so rural that the government had not provided street lights or even electricity in the village. I was not sure who was who. It was too dark inside and outside. Everyone said they were my aunt and cousin. The only aunt I looked for was not found. The bamboo thatch house had no light, not even a lit candle.

One of the ladies said she was my aunt. I called my mother from the states to verify. The lady who claimed to be my aunt was my mother's step sister. My mother did not want to talk to her and asked where her actual sister was. Just like the Cinderella story, my mother

See Cambodia, continued on page 12

Yenly Thach Stevens, the daughter of refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam, was born in 1982 in Nong Chan, a refugee camp in Thailand. In 1989, after living in eight different camps, Yenly and her family were finally accepted for resettlement to the USA, with the help of UNHCR. Yenly will always remember her father saying, "I brought you here, now it is your turn to finish."

She was the first person in her family to graduate from college, doing so with honors. Following her undergraduate studies, Yenly decided to give back by volunteering in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica. She is finishing up her graduate studies in Global and International Studies at UCSB with an emphasis on humanitarian assistance and refugee rights. Yenly has also worked as a translator in the Bronx, NY; a voter advocate and youth development specialist in Long Beach, CA; a case manager for youth-at-risk in San Diego, CA; a private sector fundraiser with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, Switzerland; and as a university teaching assistant for global studies and sociology at UCSB. She is also a Boren NSEP Fellow for International Study in Cambodia and Kendra Payne Global Study Award.

For more of Yenly's adventures, go to yenlythach.blogspot.com.

Cambodia (continued from pg. 11)

and her sister were treated badly by their stepmother and sisters growing up. The lady said, *"Your aunt does not live here anymore. She lives in the center of Prey Veng."* I said with anger, *"Why did you kick her out or treat her very badly?"* Someone yelled back in the dark, *"So what if we did?"*

My feelings were mixed and I was unsure of how to handle the situation. I haven't heard the whole story but I knew in my gut something was not right and that I needed to get out of there right away. I think my relatives had the same feelings. We tried to come up with an excuse to leave. The stepmother and daughters asked us to spend the night. I was not sure where they had in mind for us to sleep but it was impossible to sleep in the small, unlit thatched house. Besides, to me, anyone that my mother does not like means bad news.

Before we left, I made sure to get my aunt's contact information. At first they said they didn't know. I then told them that my mother was very ill and all she asked was to hear her sister's voice. They then told me where she lived and said there was a phone number to reach her, but if I wanted it, I had to go to another village to get it. They suggested I go alone with some guy they claimed to be my step cousin. I said no, and that I would wait there in the car. The local nurse kindly offered to go and get the number for me. About twenty minutes later, the local nurse returned with a contact phone number.

Those twenty minutes were not easy. The step siblings constantly asked us to stay, and asked for money. I started to worry for my safety and wanted to get out of there as soon as possible. They covered me like flies and touched me everywhere. I was so uncomfortable that I end up waiting in the car where it was hot. I'd rather be in the hot car than touched by people I didn't know.

We left immediately after getting the phone number. One of the step siblings tried to make us feel bad by saying, *"You came to visit auntie and grandma yet you are in a hurry to leave? This really hurts."* I loudly responded, *"I came here to look for my aunt, and you're not my aunt."* She replied, *"Even though I am not your mother's sister, I still have some of the same blood."* I then realized that I needed to take a different approach. I spoke nicely and told them that I would visit again during my next school break. It worked; they ended up letting us go.

We managed to safely leave the village. The whole night back to Phnom Penh, we talked about our adventure. I was not the only one who had been scared and worried. My relatives were also concerned for their safety, and especially mine.

We did get back to Phnom Penh around 11:30pm. Now, they have a crazy story to tell their neighbors and relatives. Although I did not get to meet my mother's sister, it was valuable to spend time with my father's siblings and see my mother's province. It was also enlightening to meet people who hurt her as a child. There is nothing more than I can ask for from this memorable and adventurous day.

Trafficking (continued from pg. 9)

In her master's thesis, Le focused on the work of so-called "employment" brokers – the people who bring the victims into Taiwan. The brokers, Le says, are key players in a complex system that she describes as "institutionalized human trafficking."

It's... human trafficking that's disguised as an employment agency," says Le, whose thesis was approved last month and she hopes to share it with the Taiwanese government.

Still, the answer to the question — why don't victims just run away — isn't simple.

Another Orange County resident who worked as an intern at the Taiwanese shelter, Vanessa Nguyen of Anaheim, suggests the question itself isn't totally fair.

"It's easy for people who have lived in a place with democracy and freedoms... to be equipped with the ability to choose right from wrong, or to choose to do something. But these women, they had no choice in anything," Nguyen says.

"The No. 1 thing I learned is that you can't be judgmental. These women are faced with the toughest decisions of their lives."

Running away or escaping is rarely an option. Not when you have a family to feed, a mortgage to pay, or your life on the line. That's why VietACT's goal is to raise the "drum beat" on human trafficking, so the world doesn't forget that sometimes people don't have a choice.



Caroline Le (MAGIS 2007-2009) traveled to Taiwan as an Intern for the Orange County-based nonprofit Vietnamese Alliance to Combat Trafficking (VietACT). In Taiwan, the interns help labor and sex trafficking victims who have been lured to China from their homeland to work in factories, nursing homes or as domestic workers. (Photo by Michael Goulding, Orange County Register.)

SUSTAINABLE LIVING EDUCATION IN THE NAMIB DESERT

BY BEN BURGHART
MAGIS 2008-2010

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Ben Burghart completed his MAGIS internship as a volunteer at Namib Desert Environmental Educational Turst (NaDEET).

Much of the primary and secondary school science education conducted in Africa today consists of rote learning. It is often disconnected from the lives of students, and additionally lacks any themes centred on conservation and the protection of the natural environment. In Namibia, this old way of learning is changing.

Since 2003, the Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust (NaDEET) has operated an environmental education centre in the Namib Desert (on the NamibRand Nature Reserve). As a non-profit trust depending on the generosity of private and local company donations and local and international grants, NaDEET has been able to invite thousands of Namibian school children to its Centre, regardless of their background or ability to pay.

During the weeklong environmental education programme, visiting students not only learn about basic scientific inquiry and desert flora and fauna, but also how they can live in a way that does not negatively impact the unique environment of Namibia. NaDEET is leading the way in both science and sustainability education in southern Africa. Their premise is that not learning how to care for the environment may one day make learning about the environment impossible.

Into the wild to learn

NaDEET's pedagogy rests on a simple, live-it-for-yourself method. Its formal classroom lessons are strongly supported by informal experiences outside, amongst the sand dunes of this planet's oldest desert.

One of NaDEET's aims is to change unsustainable living habits in Namibia. Wood-burning cooking fires, litter, and lack of water threaten the future of people and the natural environment they depend on to survive. If we want to reverse these trends – deforestation, climate change, pollution, to name a few – then shouldn't environmental education show learners alternative ways of survival? Even better, have them practice these things themselves?

This is NaDEET's philosophy in action: children at the centre experience on their own the easy mechanics of solar cookers and ovens, powered by the sun's free energy; reducing, reusing, and recycling the rubbish they create while visiting; and recording their daily water use, to actually see how much water they use, and testing different water-saving methods.

Another part of NaDEET's teaching method rests on the design principles of biomimicry: look to nature to find sustainable adaptations to modern human life. For many of the children at NaDEET Centre, this is their first time in the wild desert.

When NaDEET educators lead them on interpretative dune walks and help them set small mammal catch and release traps, they are asked to look at the ways particular species adapt to desert life.

The hardships in the desert reflect many of the problems Namibia faces today, namely, lack of food, water, and resources for shelter. How does the Tok Tokkie beetle's inability to fly help it recycle water? How does an Oryx use thermoregulation to withstand the scorching desert temperatures? How does seemingly dried out detritus spark vibrant biodiversity in the Namib Desert?

By the end of these discussions, children understand the bottom line of nature: survival by creative adaptation. NaDEET asks them to



UCSB's Model Arab League Excels at West Coast Competition

BY ANDREW D. MAGNUSSON

UCSB's Model Arab League team practically swept the awards ceremony at the West Coast Model Arab League held in San Francisco from April 9-11, 2010. The Model Arab League is a competition in which students simulate the function of the real Arab League by debating Middle East affairs and proposing solutions that are in the interest of the countries they represent. Eleven colleges from throughout California participated, representing more than eighteen countries; UCSB represented Lebanon. Each of the UCSB team's five committees (Joint Defense, Palestinian Affairs, Social Affairs, Political Affairs, and Environmental Affairs) drafted or co-sponsored at least one resolution that passed in their committee meetings and then went before all the member states at a summit session. These resolutions dealt with topics as diverse as election oversight, regional law enforcement, access to basic education,



humanitarian aid for Palestinians, and alternative energy. Several of UCSB's resolutions were subsequently ratified. At the awards ceremony, UCSB students garnered four Outstanding Delegate awards and one Honorable Mention. In addition, the team won the overall award for Most Outstanding Delegation. UCSB's Model Arab League students met for twelve weeks to in preparation for the competition. They studied current events in the Middle East from Lebanon's point of view, proposed potential solutions and practiced debating with their peers. Student participants included Jeremy Hodge, Kaykhosro Reghabi, Geoffrey Ticker, Brendan Geck, Ibraam Nashed, Vivian Chui, Miriam Zouzounis, Andrew Roller,

Quinn Wilson, and Mohammed Shameem. Several of these students are Global Studies majors; others are from the History, Political Science and Art Departments. All are budding diplomats.

NaDEET (continued from pg. 13)

consider humanity's role in ensuring the survival of the planet. This consideration, supported by hands-on sustainable living activities, sparks a smarter and more responsible group of young Namibians. When they return home, these children have the knowledge and tools to adapt to a more sustainable lifestyle in their own strained environment.

Namibian Scientists for Namibia

The future of science and science education in Namibia rests on the strength of only a few institutions, which admit a small fraction of the population, and usually only those privileged enough to obtain a tertiary degree. Therefore, despite its grassroots profile, NaDEET plays a crucial role in fostering the next generation of Namibian scientists. Rarely are Namibian children from poor communities exposed to field biology, or encouraged to pursue a career in science.

In light of the fact that Namibia hosts some of this planet's most unique ecosystems (Namib Desert, Kalahari Desert, Succulent Karoo), shouldn't the scientific community cultivate a strong group of Namibian scientists, to study and protect the natural environment of their home communities?

Integral to its environmental education programme, NaDEET promotes basic skills needed for science, such as curiosity, experimental testing, collaborative research, and scientific measurement and presentation. As NaDEET looks ahead to the coming years, it plans on hosting additional groups of adult community members from around Namibia, in the effort to bring scientific knowledge and sustainable living practices to disadvantaged adults, especially women.

Undergrad Alumni: Notes From the Field

October 14, 2009

Hi Mark,

I hope that all is well. I am writing with regard to my work in Haiti. While in Haiti, I worked with the ultra poor lending program at Fonkoze, the largest microfinance institution in the country. In my spare time I set up a vitamin distribution program with Vitamin Angels (a local Santa Barbara non-profit with which I had an internship during my studies at UCSB) and Fonkoze, the Haitian MFI. Vitamin Angels agreed to donate over \$150,000 worth of childrens multivitamins. I orchestrated the shipping and importing of the vitamins and planned the distribution. I then had to leave Haiti early to go to the Peace Corps but left the project in the hands of Nicole Cesar, the medical director at Fonkoze. She did an immense amount of amazing work and distributed the entire shipment of vitamins to more than 13,000 children in Haiti. The project was an enormous success.

Nicole, the medical director at Fonkoze, has also recently been selected as a Hero of the Hemisphere by the Pan American Development Foundation and will be honored at the end of this month. Rene Preval, the president of Haiti, will be in attendance.

I am also attaching a translated version of the final vitamin distribution report from Fonkoze.

Pura Vida,
Chase Adam
Peace Corps Volunteer
Community Economic Development
Suretka, Costa Rica
BA, Global Studies, Spring 2008



April 16, 2010

Hi Professor Juergensmeyer,

Just wanted to shoot you a quick email about Global majors taking the global part to heart. I am training in the Dominican Republic to do enviro development with the Peace Corps. Before this, I was traveling in Asia after finishing the global major in 2009. A few weeks ago, I met up with a future project partner here in Santo Domingo who does ecotourism work and has been traveling the past 6 years or so: Ben Younkman. He was a global major 2004, and now works for Solimar International. Last night i received calls from my best friend who lives in Singapore, another friend living in Tel Aviv, my Italian girlfriend in Istanbul and Romanian roommate in DC. And I dont have running water. Make sure to tell your students that finishing with a global major can very well put you on the path to fill up your passport and get you frustrated with dialing country codes and juggling between languages trying to form a sentence, and most of all appreciate the beauty of it all. Thanks for creating a great program!

cheers!

John Holder

John graduated with a BA in Global Studies in Winter 2009. He recently arrived in the Dominican Republic on a two-year stay with the Peace Corps. John has als been a longtime intern with WILDcoast, an organization that works to protect and preserve coastal ecosystems and wild-life in the Californias and Latin America by building grassroots support, conducting media campaigns and establishing protected areas. Follow his Peace Corps dispatches online: <http://www.wildcoast.net>.

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