

SIENAcollège

# Globetrotter



SNAPSHOTS OF SIENA'S GLOBALIZATIONS STUDIES PROGRAM SPRING 2009



# GREETINGS!

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Siena students and faculty are continually engaged in global activity, whether studying abroad for a semester, participating in travel courses or service courses, publishing books and presenting papers or sponsoring and participating in conferences.

This issue of the *Globetrotter* reports on some of the travel/service trips advertised in the Fall *Globetrotter* and some of the activities of the faculty and students and the Globalization Studies Program since our last newsletter.

We particularly are proud to host the 4th Annual Siena-Concordia Globalization Conference on March 19-20 and invite you to attend the panels on Friday morning, March 20 in Sarazen 243.

On the last page of the newsletter, you will find a list of the courses cross-listed as Globalization Studies electives for the Fall 2009 semester. You must take these courses under the GLST number for them to be credited to the minor. Neither the Introduction to Globalization Studies nor the International Experiences Seminar are offered in the fall.

Hope to see you on the 20th!

Jean M. Stern, Ph.D.  
Director, Globalization Studies Program



## STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

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### Student gets involved with World Youth Alliance

In January, Emily Flasz '10 attended the 2009 World Youth Alliance Emerging Leaders U.S. Policy Seminar. The theme of the seminar was "Human Dignity and Authentic Development" where students learned effective development strategies that uphold the dignity of the human person. Participants interacted with leaders in international policy-making, business, academia and the media.

Emily says she enjoyed learning about Person Centered Authentic Development in particular.

Person Centered Authentic Development states that it is the national and international communities' duty to create a social, political and economic environment that allows persons to reach their full physical, spiritual, mental and emotional potential.



An example is the Gawad Kalinga project, a Philippine organization that helps build homes for disadvantaged peoples living in slums.

The group's policy is that it first require the home beneficiaries to help build other community members' homes to work off the payment for materials it will cost to build their home. This allows people to gain a sense of dignity and pride in earning a home.

Emily is extremely passionate about the World Youth Alliance and is founding a chapter here on the Siena campus to promote the awareness of issues concerning human dignity. For more information please contact [er22flas@siena.edu](mailto:er22flas@siena.edu).

## Is there slavery in your chocolate?

By Mike Ellement '10

Whether it's Reeses' or Kit-Kats, it seems that college students share an affinity for chocolaty treats, but do you ever wonder where your chocolate comes from?

A recent article by author John Robbins outlines the path that much of the chocolate you eat takes, prior to reaching your local convenient store and eventually your mouth.

Not much was known about the production of chocolate prior to 2001, when a series of investigative articles exposed the slavery practices of cocoa farms in Ivory Coast (located in West Africa). Ivory Coast provides about 43% of the world's supply of cocoa, by far the most productive of any nation, with beans going to some of the world's largest candy corporations.

The BBC has likewise found that the slave trade is a primary staple of Ivory Coast's labor force. Children as young as 12 are sold from countries like Togo and Mali and then forced to work up to 100 hours a week for no pay. They are beaten and barely fed. They become replaceable pieces of property for Ivory Coast cocoa farmers. This is the reason the Sister Thea Bowman Center for Women supports fair trade through its fair trade chocolate sales. Doing so brings awareness to the problem of child slavery and provides the Siena community with an alternative to chocolate produced by child labor.



## FACULTY NEWS

### A Return to Vietnam

By: Br. Linh Hoang

I traveled with my parents Peter and Chinh Hoang to Vietnam in late December 2008 to mid-January 2009. This was the first time that my mother and I had been back since we fled our war ravaged country in 1975; it was the second for my father.

I left when I was five years old, so I had little memory of Saigon, now Ho Chi Min City, but my parents were struck by how much the city had changed. It now has 7 million people, many of the buildings have changed or disappeared, streets have new names, and poverty could be seen everywhere. We toured the presidential palace, which used to be off-limits. Many



Vietnamese gathered there to wait for the American airlift during the last days of April 1975.

We also visited the Franciscan friars. There are about 20 friars living at the friary involved in several different ministries. It was an excellent opportunity to connect with them and to discuss ways to create an exchange in the future. We also visited Hanoi for the first

time, where the people seemed more detached and cautious in the north than the south. We visited the museum and mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh, whose picture is ubiquitous from the currency to posters in local shops.

The last part of our trip was to Da Nang, where my parents are from, to visit my cousins and relatives.

We also traveled west to Hue, the medieval imperial city that contains a replication of the Forbidden City of Beijing. We paid tribute to my grandparents at their graveside and visited more living relatives.

I know that I will return again soon to Vietnam to maintain my new connections with my relatives, friars and other Vietnamese that I met.



## Pojmann Publishes Book on European Migration

Wendy Pojmann, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, recently published a book titled *Migration and Activism in Europe since 1945* with Palgrave MacMillan. The edited volume appeared in print during fall 2008 and features 12 chapters that draw on research from international scholars who cover such conflict-ridden themes as autonomous migrant organizing and transnational activism. The compelling materials provide a welcome comparison of the impact of migration on European countries as diverse as Germany, France, Belgium, Sweden, Spain, and Italy. Pojmann's chapter highlighted the role of Italian migrant women in the larger women's movement her

colleague Associate Professor of Political Science Vera Eccarius-Kelly, Ph.D., focused on transnational activism among Kurdish immigrants in Europe.

## Professors Attend Global Learning Conference

Br. Linh Hoang, assistant professor of religious studies, Deborah Kelly, Ph.D., assistant professor of management, and Manimoy Paul, Ph.D., assistant professor of quantitative business analysis, representing the Globalization Studies Program, attended the Shared Futures Global Learning Forum sponsored by the Association of American Colleges

and Universities (AAC&U) in Philadelphia in March, 2009. More than 300 participants representing 80+ colleges and universities shared ideas and best practices regarding the emerging curricular and co-curricular architecture for building global learning opportunities, and discussed strategies for creating opportunities and managing obstacles. Participants were asked to identify critical issues within broad interdisciplinary global topics (e.g.: "Health and Social Justice," "Sustainability," "Globalization, Wealth and Poverty," "The Ethics of Global Citizenship, "Identity, Culture, and Border Crossings" and "Religion in Global Contexts") and to set the agenda for

future curriculum and faculty development efforts organized around these themes.

These three faculty members returned from the conference with several ideas as to how the Siena College Globalization Studies Program can continue to design new experiences that are meaningful and will prepare our students to meet global challenges.



#### 4th Siena-Concordia Conference held on Campus

On March 19 and 20, students from Siena's Introduction to Globalization Studies course participated in a one-day conference with students and faculty from the Loyola International College of Concordia University. The theme of the conference was "Social Justice and Democracy in a Global Perspective." The conference opened with a dinner honored by keynote speaker, Ricardo Lopez-Torrijos, Ph.D., an atmospheric scientist with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The following day, the first panel was four presentations on the conference theme. The presenters included a Concordia student, a team of Siena students, Concordia professor Daniel Salée, Ph.D., and Siena's Richard Shirey, Ph.D., professor of economics. The second panel was comprised of representatives from the local community whose presentations consisted of various aspects of globalization.



## Hugh Johnson Speaks at Siena on Current Financial Crisis

On November 4, 2008, the Globalization Studies Program, Center for the Study of Government and Politics and the School of Business sponsored a presentation by Hugh Johnson, Chair of Johnson Ilington Advisors, who spoke on the timely topic of "Understanding the Current Financial Crisis." Through a series of electronic presentations followed by a question and answer period, Johnson explained the reasons for the current financial crisis and the consequences for the U.S. and the world.





## STUDY TOURS U.S./Mexican Border

On January 11, 2009, eight students along with Jean Stern, Ph.D. and Donna McIntosh, Ph.D. traveled to El Paso, Texas to experience the realities of globalization issues crossing the U.S.-Mexican border.

In Juarez, Mexico they visited a children's library/after school program and listened to the life story of a 16-year-old girl and her family. In El Paso, they visited facilities for migrant workers and a water utility center where they learned about shared water resources across several countries. They also spoke with border patrol agents, as well as an immigration lawyer.

Students were able to attain first-hand accounts of people who were experiencing the globalizing issues of migration and the effects of the U.S. recession on neighboring countries. The students brought these experiences into the classroom by tailoring the spring semester course according to their interests over the trip.



## Dominican Republic

By Ben Thomas '12

Through the Sr. Thea Bowman Center for Women, Siena students traveled to the Dominican Republic to work with children attending the Bernadine Franciscan Sisters elementary school. The school enrolls 140 students, and, similar to Franciscan tradition, priority in the applicant pool is given to those who are the most disadvantaged.

In addition to teaching English, Siena students also organized projects for the school's after-school program and made a sizable donation to the mission.

Sister Valdair attributes part of the success of the St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School to the help of Siena College. She and the rest of the mission gather and pray for all of the Siena groups that have visited Santo Domingo, as well as for the entire College.

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## Costa Rica

Twelve Siena College students travelled to Costa Rica in January 2009 on a 10-night non-credit study tour with Deborah Kelly, assistant professor of management. In addition to experiencing the food, language and social interaction within a different culture, students learned about the global eco-tourism industry firsthand. The students participated in various eco-tourist adventures (such as horseback-riding, canopy zip-lining and riding a water slide through the forest.) The group also learned about the history, politics and economy of Costa Rica through various lectures. The study tour group, comprised of students representing all three schools at Siena, stayed in the Guanacaste (Pacific North) province of Costa Rica in an eco-friendly resort at Playa Panama. The group also took a day trip into Nicaragua, where they visited the Masaya volcano, the Santiago Crater and the city of Granada. While visiting Nicaragua, the students participated in a service project at a Catholic Mission, delivering gifts of books and toys to children in a small, rural community in need. This is the third year that this study tour has been offered.



## Italy

Thirteen Siena College students traveled to Italy over spring break as part of a Modern Italy since 1815 course with Wendy Pojmann, Ph.D., assistant professor of history. The one-week study tour completed a unit on the unification of Italy (the Risorgimento) with visits to Italy's three 19th century capital cities – Rome, Florence, and Turin. In Rome, the students visited the Risorgimento and Napoleonic museums. In Florence, they toured the royal apartments of the Palazzo Pitti. In Turin, they were treated to a special guided walking tour of key Risorgimento sites. Students also



had plenty of free time to visit such well-known spots as the Coliseum, St. Peter's Basilica, and the Pantheon in Rome, and to see Michelangelo's David and Galileo's tomb in Florence. Along the way, they enjoyed fine Italian cooking, plenty of gelato and had a chance to purchase items in the famous Florentine leather market. On the last day, the students relaxed in sunny, warm Como where they took in a lovely boat tour of the lake. This is the first year the travel component has been added but Pojmann hopes to offer the course again in 2011 as part of the 150th celebration of the unification of Italy.



## SPRING GLOBALIZATION COURSE LISTINGS

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Fall 2009 Globalization Studies Cross-listed courses\*

GLST-300 Topics in Globalization Studies

CREA 231 Art to the 15th Century with Patrica  
Trutty-Coohill

ENGL-285 Topics in English: African Literature  
with Jerry Dollar

SOCI 385—Topics: Native Peoples in the Modern  
World with Fr. Capistran Hanlon

GLST-325 Globalization Studies Travel Course

RELG-400 Religious Studies Field Experience: Egypt  
with Fareed Munir

- Note: there are no specific Globalization Studies courses offered in the fall.



# GLOBALIZATION STUDIES MINOR

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The Globalization minor complements all majors and prepares students to “address the challenges of an ever-changing world and a diverse society.” Students will examine how their decisions and those of other U.S. citizens affect and are being affected by decisions beyond our borders. They will also see that most careers, whether in business, social policy/action, and the humanities are pursued within a global context.

This minor is premised on the definition of globalization as the “growth of relations among people across national borders that creates a complex series of connections that tie together what people do, what they experience, and how they live across the globe.” It also incorporates Siena College’s Franciscan heritage by recognizing that St. Francis and his followers developed networks beyond Italy’s borders and that our contemporary connections must be evaluated in terms of both how they affect human society and all of Creation and how they involve our responsibility to others.

Hence, this minor attempts to enable students to discover their connections and responsibilities to the rest of the world through considering these basic questions in all its designated courses:

1. What are the positive and negative ways in which the people of the world are connected in the 21st century?
2. How do I and the people in my community, region and country have global connections with people in other lands?
3. How do individuals, organizations and governments attempt to manage these connections? What are the positive and negative implications for the various management methods and rules? Who benefits and who loses from these decisions? How do these decisions affect the marginalized and the poor?



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