

SIENACollege

# Globetrötter



SNAPSHOTS OF SIENA'S GLOBALIZATIONS STUDIES PROGRAM • WINTER 2011



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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This issue of *Globetrotter* highlights student travel and the impact felt when experiencing new cultures. We profile Eben Yonetti '12 and Clarissa Cupero '12, who share their semester-abroad experiences in Nepal and Spain, respectively. We preview new travel courses to Russia and Dubai and report on the Dutch roots of New York, which Fr. Dan Dwyer, O.F.M., explored with a group of students in a course that included travel to Amsterdam, Holland. Samantha Watson '11 reports on her Border Awareness course, which included travel to El Paso, Texas, this past spring.

Please save the date for Monday, November 14, when Ms. Widney Brown, senior director of international law and policy at the international secretariat of Amnesty International, will speak at Siena on "The Prognosis for Human Rights in a Politically Changed World." The event will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Key Auditorium, Roger Bacon Hall.



The Globalization Studies Program recognizes the contributions of its student volunteers and workers. Keva Luke '14 represented the program at the Siena College Open House on September 25 and Kori Swieter '15 has joined the program in our first ever work-study position. Kori's chief responsibilities will be to maintain the Globalization Studies Program webpage and Facebook page.

Check us out on the web at [www.siena.edu/pages/2222.asp](http://www.siena.edu/pages/2222.asp) and at Facebook by searching, "Globalization Studies at Siena."

Barbara Reeves-Ellington, Ph.D.  
Acting Director, Globalization Studies Program

*Jean Stern, Ph.D., is on sabbatical leave for the Fall 2011 semester. She returns in January 2012.*

# GLOBALIZATION STUDIES COURSES – SPRING 2012

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## Globalization Studies Minor Electives

BUDV-420	Global Connections, 1-credit travel course
FINC-413	International Finance
GERM-026	Twentieth Century German Cinema
GERM-027	U.S. and German Media Culture
HIST-202	The West and the World
HIST-333	The Middle East in Modern Times
MKMG-334	International Marketing
POSC-150	World Politics
POSC-355	Global Environmental Dilemmas
POSC-362	Refugee and Migration Studies
RELG-210	Islam
RELG-280	World Religions
RELG-390	Religion and Globalization
SOCI-140	Cultural Anthropology
SOCI-240	Sociology of Aging
SOCI-370	Medical Sociology
SPAN-027	Women Writers from Latin America in Translation
SPAN-360	Spanish American Civilization

## GLST-300 Topics in Globalization Studies cross-listed with:

CREA-251	World Theatre History
CREA -232	Art from the Fifteenth Century
GLST 300/ ENVA 305	Sustainable Tourism
HIST-402	Canada and the United States: Divergent Paths - Intertwined Destinies
WRIT-230	History of the English Language

## GLST-325 Globalization Travel Course cross-listed with:

ARAB-305	Dubai, sections for Arabic speakers and non-Arabic speakers
ENVA-305	Topics in Environmental Studies: Rural Sustainable Development in Latin America
RELG-400	Hus and Luther, Czech Republic and Germany
RUSS-305	Moscow and St. Petersburg, sections for Russian speakers and non-Russian speakers
WSTU 300 and PCST 240	Gender Equality in the Nordic Countries

## EIGHT MONTHS AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD

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By Eben Yonetti '12

My first day in Asia was spent on the phone, crying to my mother. Having received wrong directions on how to transfer and not yet realizing that the only way to get to the front of a line in Delhi is to push, I missed my last connecting flight. Stuck for 24 hours, I was forced to stay in the middle of the New Delhi slums. People in rags were burning trash outside the door and the bright pink dining area looked like a perfect example of 1980s bad fashion. I was not impressed. So utterly exhausted and terrified that my only remaining coping mechanism was to fall asleep, I ended up being awakened three times before night fell.

And yet, nearly eight months later as I packed my bags and took my final taxi to the Kathmandu airport, pangs of heartache and grief swept my body. This place that at times I found utterly disgusting, that often made me frustrated beyond all belief, had become my home. What is more, I had absolutely fallen in love with it. The places I visited, family and friends I made, subjects I studied, food I ate and sicknesses I survived were all part of what I can only describe as a series of life-shattering and simultaneously life-building adventures in the course of eight months in Nepal, India and Bhutan.

In May, I traveled with four friends trekking for two weeks in the Himalayas. Starting at near



sea-level, we marched up through tourist saturated villages, past prayer wheels and temples, across sheep and yak herds, by glaciers and soaring peaks, near forests and beyond into pure rock faces as we worked our way from Besisahar around the Annapurna Circuit. Finally, at the climax of the trek we reached

Throng-la. Queasy and head-achy from the altitude, we stared straight out from nearly 18,000 feet. Higher than Everest Base Camp, breathless, exhausted and giddy with excitement, we were at the top of the world looking down. Even in the barren Himalayas, one realizes how nature is not something separate from humans but something larger, of which we all are a part.

I decided to stay in Kathmandu over the summer to study Buddhist philosophy and teach English. The cook at my school, Angnyima-la, became a dear friend of mine. I taught his daughter, who, along with her friends, giggled through nearly every day of my English class. I spent many an evening with his and my close friends and family in the restaurant he runs out

of his home, drinking tea or Tongpa (Tibetan wine), while laughing, learning his native language of Sherpa and being taught how to cook Tibetan and Sherpa food. Hearing stories from a man who has ported, cooked, guided and captained countless expeditions throughout the Himalayas, including three attempts to summit Everest, and who speaks eight different languages is astounding. Learning that he only went to school for two weeks in his life and worked constantly to support his family and children so that they would never have to engage in such difficult and dangerous labor serves up a slice of humble pie and a dose of reality, especially when I realized that such stories

are commonplace around Sherpa and Himalayan communities.

My time living abroad has been rewarding and life changing in more ways than I can count. After living in South Asia, eating, sleeping, drinking or going to the bathroom are not the same. For good and for bad, it was absolutely magnificent.



## SINGING IN SEVILLA

By Clarissa Cupero '12

Everyone returning from abroad has an experience that made their stay unique. I live for music; I sing and write songs in English and Spanish and I'm pursuing a music career to become one of the first English-to-Spanish crossovers. My study abroad experience was the opportunity of a lifetime.

Sevilla, Spain, a gem of a city sitting on the Guadalquivir River, will capture you from the moment you step foot in it. You have to look beyond the cobblestone streets, the colorful buildings and lively restaurants to get deeper into Sevilla. You have to use your ears. This is a city that not only lives for flamenco,

it defines flamenco. Flamenco tells a story of life through joyful and sorrowful times; it has a historical aspect to the stories that have carried over through the generations. I walked into flamenco bars only to find how Spanish people are born and raised to keep a rhythm completely in sync with each other. Shouts of "Olé!" filled the room, as they praised the guitar players for their fancy finger work and the singers for their dramatic vocals. I found that the expression, "Olé," was the universal term for praise and happiness during these performances.



Before I flew to Sevilla, my host mother told me that her husband, Alejandro, was a flamenco guitar player. I thought to myself, "You have to be kidding me!" The day I arrived at their doorstep music brought us together. Alejandro became my teacher of the different styles of flamenco such as bulerías and rumba. I would walk downstairs from my room to the sound of his picking at the classical guitar beautifully and singing with a vocal

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tone that had certainly lived life. Before dinner, we would practice on the many guitars he had in the house. They gave me an acoustic guitar to practice with in my room and on the beautiful terrace. At the dinner table, we would tap our knuckles on the table to a flamenco beat to have fun.

As I had a connection with my host padre, he inspired me to see Sevilla differently. He suffered from a sickness that almost took his life and he lost the strength to play guitar with his right arm. After two years, Alejandro regained enough strength to keep playing. Sometimes we would go for walks where he would show me music venues and introduce me to the locals and the

bar owners. I eventually became friendly with the bar owners next door to our house. It was there where I felt that hometown feeling.

On March 3, I made my performing debut in Sevilla. Alejandro got me a gig at the bar next door. My parents came to visit me for my 21st birthday and on the last night I surprised them by having them think they were walking into the bar to watch a flamenco show, when really I walked in with the guitar on my back and told them I was the show. The bar became crowded with my American friends from school and with other Spanish friends. I conducted

the show in Spanish and sang songs in both languages for about an hour. The Spaniards kept a rhythm with their hands on the table. I heard Alejandro cheering me on with “Olé.” As the sweat covered my face, I couldn’t believe my eyes when I finished. I had a standing ovation surrounding me in the room. Afterward, both of my



## SINGING IN SEVILLA (continued)

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families connected with hugs and kisses surpassing language barriers. I really felt that music brought us together that night. My journey as a crossover singer had not only begun, but it was already becoming a success.

Sevilla's arms remained open, pulling me into the city. It wasn't too long after my first gig that I landed a second one down the street from our house. This time, it was a day gig completely filled with Spaniards. I sat with a glass of vino like a Spaniard and played away during the day -- the locals were curious as to why they were hearing my music instead of flamenco. Ending with approval from their smiles, I couldn't believe

I was living my musical passion abroad. What gave me goose bumps was that Alejandro used to play at the same bar. It was an even more gratifying to see him proudly watch me.

Studying abroad in Sevilla with the host family I lived with was truly a blessing. I consider music to be the universal language. It has no borders or barriers. If you are considering studying abroad, think of what you're passionate about. Be honest with yourself; be honest on your application. Talk about your talents and passions, especially when living with a family. You may find yourself living your passion.





## THE BORDER AWARENESS EXPERIENCE

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By Samantha Watson '11

On January 13, 2011, Director of the Sr. Thea Bowman Center for Women Shannon O'Neill, Ph.D., led a group of students to the Women's Intercultural Center (WIC) in Anthony, N.M., for a week-long travel study. Anthony is a small town that lies directly on the New Mexico/Texas border, about 20 minutes from El Paso, Texas (where we spent the majority of our time). The Center aims to "provide a place for women to learn and work together to develop their social, spiritual, economic and political potential." This is done through their community center that consists of several buildings, including a house which facilitated our stay. It also includes a computer lab, fitness

and English classes, a thrift store, an art studio where women can sell what they make and a haircutting studio where women learn to cut hair.

At the WIC, our group participated in the Border Awareness Experience (BAE) where we got a chance to meet with grassroots leaders, locals and others who deal with issues of immigration on the U.S./Mexican border, as well as take a tour of the border through the Border Patrol. We also visited various organizations, like La Mujer Obrera (The Working Woman) that was founded in response to the high number of jobs lost by Mexican women working (about 35,000) in clothing manufacturing because of the establishment of NAFTA. La Mujer Obrera is an organization in

El Paso that aims to empower women, provide jobs and teach the community about their Mexican heritage.

Our group was given the opportunity to understand what living in and near a border city entails, especially through a woman's perspective. We were fortunate enough to be hosted by amazing people through the WIC who presented many sides of the issues we were educated about. Due to our incredible time in the Border Awareness Experience, the Women's Center at Siena College looks forward to taking this trip again next year in 2012 and for the following years to come.





### Russian 305

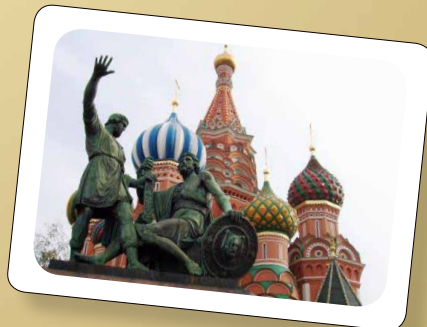


- 7-10 day trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg
- Course theme is Russian music and Russian composers and performers
- CORE course (Franciscan Diversity)
- Two sections— one for students with no language skills and one for students with language skills
- In both sections, orientation meetings, research, lectures and discussions will prepare students for an informed field experience.

## NEW TRAVEL COURSES

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- Upon return, students present a project/research paper and portfolio based on their linguistic and cultural knowledge acquired abroad. Students may repeat this course for credit if subject matter differs.
- Travel costs are paid in full by students. The cost will be \$2,500-2,800.



### Arabic 305



- 7-10 day trip to Dubai
- Course theme is blending of traditional Arab and Bedouin cultures with elements of Western culture.
- CORE course (Franciscan Diversity)
- Two sections — one for students with no language skills and one for students with language skills

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- In both sections, orientation meetings, research, lectures and discussions will prepare students for an informed field experience. Upon return, students present a project/research paper and portfolio based on their linguistic and cultural knowledge acquired abroad. Students may repeat this course for credit if subject matter differs.
  - Travel costs are paid in full by students. The cost will be \$2,500-2,800.

## U.S. and German Media Culture: A Comparative Study of Content, Form and Impact (taught in English)

- This course is a comparative study of U.S. and German media which focuses on its content, form and impact. In this course, students will: decode, evaluate and compare data presented in a variety of U.S. and German information sources; analyze how media and its message are presented in both countries; and, critically reflect upon the media message and their understanding of it. This course will consider printed, audio and visual information as text which will be analyzed for its information content, its social and cultural bias, as well as any possible intended manipulation of the reader's/listener's/viewer's perspective.
- This course will be taught in English. All German materials will be in translation, dubbed or subtitled. (ATTR: ARTS, GLST)

## NEW YORK'S DUTCH BACKGROUND

Last semester, students learned about New York's Dutch roots and analyzed the ways in which the Empire State was impacted by the Netherlands. Fr. Dan Dwyer, O.F.M., associate professor of history, traveled with students to the Netherlands from March 12-19 to learn about Dutch history and culture. They explored the work of historians in the field of New Netherland studies and visited sites connected to Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, The Dutch West India Company, artists of the Dutch "Golden Age" and the religious background of New Netherland.

"My interest in what I learned and saw on that trip convinced me to spend my next semester abroad there. I am now studying the relationships between American and Dutch society, the histories of both countries, and how significant the Dutch have been in the development of the America we know today," said Andrew Ford '13. "What started as a fun course idea became a life-changing experience that has propelled me and my research in new and wonderful directions."

Other course topics included the Dutch background to the Pilgrims of Massachusetts and the



Dutch experience during the Nazi Occupation of 1940-45.

"I would highly recommend a travel class to anyone who is lucky enough to get the opportunity to participate in one," Ford said. "You never know what it might lead to."

# SAVE THE DATE

## The Prognosis for Human Rights in a Politically Changed World

**Widney Brown**

Senior Director, International Law and Policy  
Amnesty International

**November 14, 2011 • 7:30 p.m.**

**Key Auditorium, Roger Bacon Hall**

Free and open to the public

For more information, contact Jean Stern



Globalization Studies

Widney Brown is the Senior Director of International Law and Policy at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International. She is responsible for human rights policy development, legal standard setting, litigation, thematic work and work with the UN and other advocacy. Prior to joining Amnesty International, Widney worked for nine years at Human Rights Watch. Her areas of expertise include international justice, economic social and cultural rights, women's rights and sexual and reproductive rights, international humanitarian law, freedom of expression, death penalty, asylum and migration, business and human rights, and the UN.



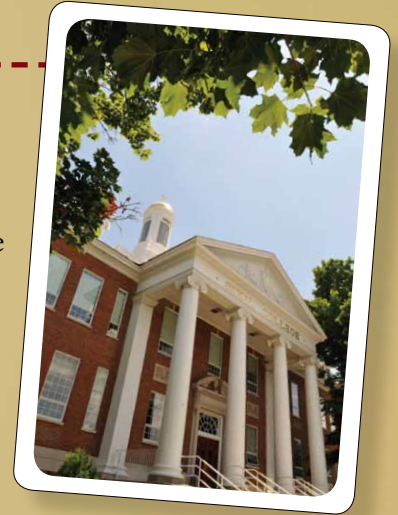
## OPEN HOUSE

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By Keva D. Luke '14

A question that I frequently received at the Globalization Studies table at Open House on September 25 was “What does globalization studies mean at Siena?” It was interesting that these prospective students, mostly junior and seniors, were inquisitive as to why Siena College would offer such a minor. My response to them could not be stated in just one sentence. My reply was that Siena College is dedicated to teaching students and its community about the global and transnational impacts that affect us daily either directly or indirectly. The Globalization Minor opens students’ minds to issues and concerns that they would not have previously known to enhance their knowledge of the world.

A great feature of this minor is that students are required to study abroad for at least one semester as part of the curriculum. Prospective students were also excited to see that the Globalization Minor would be a great complement for their majors, ranging from history to biology, because there are many classes in the School of Business and the School of Liberal Arts that count toward the minor. Not only will students who are enrolled in the minor leave Siena with a greater understanding of the world, they will leave as competent citizens of a global nation.



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