MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In this issue of *Globetrotter*, we are highlighting unique travel courses to Morocco, Colombia, Ireland and Scandinavia that were held during the 2009-2010 school year and there are many other exciting things to report when it comes to Globalization Studies at Siena College.


“Global Civic Engagement: What Does It Mean for Siena?” featured speakers from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Arcadia University, Tufts University and Bard College, who also participated on panels with Siena faculty, administrators and students.

The *Siena-Concordia University Conference on Globalization*, held in Montreal, Canada celebrated its fifth year. The featured topic was the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Next year, Siena will host this conference on March 26 – 27, 2011 and will showcase the results from *Canada and the United States: Divergent Paths – Intertwined Destinies*, a course that will be taught at both institutions.

Finally, we created a Facebook group page, where you can learn more about the opportunities our globalization studies minors have at Siena College. Search “Siena College Globalization Studies” on Facebook to join.

As of May 2010, we have 32 Globalization Studies minors and we hope to continue the program’s growth during the 2010–2011 academic year.

Jean M. Stern, Ph.D.
Director, Globalization Studies Program
Ben There, Done That

Last spring, economics major Ben Thomas ’12 was able to experience things he most only read about. The aspiring teacher studied abroad in Tanzania through Arcadia University. Thomas called his time in Africa “truly unbelievable.” He hiked Mt. Kilimanjaro, helped a friend establish an organization to improve education for children in the Maasai tribe and attended the Africa-Middle East Microcredit Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, where he met Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Muhammad Yunus. Thomas will once again study abroad this fall when he will travel to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and Phnom Penh, Cambodia. He wants to learn about the social and economic development in different countries in hopes of gaining a well-rounded perspective on the challenges facing different cultures.

Studying in Spain

This winter, Siena students will escape the snowy weather for a study tour in sunny Spain. From December 27 to January 11, students will travel from Madrid to Barcelona. They will examine the cultural legacies of Jews, Muslims and Christians in various Spanish cities, including Toledo, Granada, Cordoba and Monsterrat. The group will also stop in Ronda, spend two nights visiting the historic Costa Del Sol and ring in the new year in Seville. The course, taught by Professor of Religious Studies Peter Zaas, is titled Children of Abraham in Spain. For more information please contact Peter Zaas at zaas@siena.edu.
For the first time, Siena brought experts in global civic engagement to campus for a two-day conference hosted by the Globalization Studies Program and the Center for the Study of Government and Politics. Representatives from Indiana University-Purdue University, Arcadia University, Bard College and Tufts University shared their school’s global civic engagement practices with students and faculty members from Siena. The exchange of ideas had an immediate impact. Based on what they learned, members of Siena’s Globalization Studies Program hosted a social gathering for students returning from study abroad, travel courses and service trips, giving them the opportunity to share their experiences and relay what they learned to members of the campus community.
On May 17, sixteen Siena students traveled to Ireland as part of the travel course Local Government and Policy in Donegal, Ireland.

The students attended an Irish culture and language institute, where they studied local government and Ireland’s environmental, cultural and economic policies. They also attended daily Irish language classes and learned the role the Irish language plays in their cultural policies. They met citizens from the local community, schools, environmental organizations, media, local government and the Irish Senate.

Scenic excursions included visits to the forested Glenveigh National Park, the declining coastal fishing village of Killeybegs, the Bunglas sea cliffs (the highest in Europe), the ocean beaches and the misty sheep-covered hills of local Gleann Cholm Cille.

The students also participated in service projects that included a gardening project on the castle grounds of Glenveigh National Park and a trail assessment project in Glencolumcille.

The course was taught by Ríobart Breen, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science, Fr. Mathias Doyle ’55, O.F.M., Ph.D. director of the Franciscan Center for Service and Advocacy and Michelle Stefanik, associate campus minister.
Jewish Cemetery Restoration

Siena students transformed a Jewish cemetery in Kurenets, Belarus, from an indistinguishable landscape to a respected site with historic significance. School of Liberal Arts Dean Ralph Blasting, Leah Antil ’09 and Loudonville orthodontist Dr. Michael Lozman led eight Siena students on a journey to Eastern Europe where they learned about the devastation caused during World War II. The group worked alongside local students to install a fence around the cemetery, clear trees and remove brush from around tombstones. Belarusian senior citizens will use the felled trees for heating fuel this winter.

The project preserves the final resting places of Jewish people, who were eliminated as the German army progressed through Belarus from 1941 to 1945. The cemetery was dedicated in a ceremony attended by local and national officials at the end of the restoration. This was the third time a group from Siena has traveled to Belarus to restore cemeteries.
HEARING ABOUT HAITI

In March, Vera Eccarius-Kelly, Ph.D. and Jean Stern, Ph.D. from the Political Science Dept. joined students Sienna Abdulahad ’11, Lauren LaVare ’11 and Devi Shiwath ’12 to listen to President of the U.S. Committee for UNICEF Carolyn Stern discuss her tour of Haiti after the January earthquake. Stern was the keynote speaker at the Zonta Club of Albany’s annual Status of Women and Children Dinner. The Zonta Club of Albany is the local affiliate of the worldwide organization Zonta International. It is comprised of businesswomen and professionals who are dedicated to advancing the status of women and children in the Capital Region and throughout the world.

Studying Gender Equality

Twelve students and four faculty members spent more than a week last spring studying gender equality in Nordic countries. Director of the Sr. Thea Bowman Center for Women, Shannon O’Neill, Ph.D. led the study tour through Iceland, Sweden and Norway as the capstone to a course The Global Women. Along with guided tours of each city they visited, students met with government and university groups to learn about steps being taken to achieve gender equality.
In March 2011, Associate Professor of Political Science Vera Eccarius-Kelly, Ph.D. will once again lead students to the Columbian port city of Cartegena. This travel course to the hometown of Nobel Prize winning author Gabriel Garcia Marquez offers a unique opportunity for Siena students to explore Cartegena’s extensive fortress system and historic monuments, which, in 1984, UNESCO named significant to the heritage of the world. Students will meet their counterparts from Siena’s Franciscan partner, the University of San Buenaventura. They will also learn about the country’s literature, political and human rights history and get a firsthand look at its education system. For more information, contact Eccarius-Kelly at veccarius-kelly@siena.edu.
In January 2010, 14 students explored one of the world’s most exotic and culturally rich countries, Morocco. Deb Kelly, assistant professor of management, led the study tour that was offered as a one-credit Global Connections course. “The trip was a lot of fun and allowed us to explore and experience another culture and country,” said Jill Duarte ’11.

The Siena group toured Casablanca, Rabat, Fez and Marrakech. “My favorite part of the trip was having the chance to walk through each town’s medina, seeing what they sold and how the marketplace is run,” said Duarte. Medinas are town marketplaces. The group also toured two universities in Casablanca where they met students and faculty members.

Siena students appeared on stage during a dinner show in Fez, which became a highlight of the trip. Students also saw the snowy Middle Atlas Mountains and experienced the thrill of riding a camel on the beach. “I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to visit Morocco to do so, it is a remarkable country” said Duarte.
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The Globalization Studies 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?