Northwestern University Global Opportunities (NUGO) Website Profiles Over 250 NU Programs Around the World

The Buffett Center proudly announces the launch of the Northwestern University Global Opportunities (NUGO) website: www.global.northwestern.edu. The NUGO site highlights Northwestern's strong presence throughout the world, global influences at the University's Evanston and Chicago campuses, and the diverse international teaching and research interests of its faculty and administrators. NUGO is the culmination of almost two years' effort to produce a comprehensive resource outlining Northwestern University's ongoing international educational and research programs, and providing profiles of faculty and administrators' international interests.

Buffett Center Brings Regional Sudanese Leaders to Campus for Capacity Building Good Governance Fellowship

In May, the Buffett Center will welcome to campus five political leaders from a marginalized, contested region in Sudan, who will spend six weeks in the United States on a governance capacity building program developed through the extraordinary leadership of WCAS Senior William Kalema.

The program will enable these political leaders to hone management, negotiation, and other skills of effective governance.

Following independence, Sudan has experienced two deadly and protracted civil wars, with most of the fighting taking place in the South. Since 1983 over 1.9 million civilians have been killed in southern Sudan, and more than 4 million southerners were forced to flee their homes. In January 2005, the Sudan Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), the southern-based political party, signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The CPA, which ended the decades long Civil War in Sudan, signified an important step to building peace in the country.

Two years following the signing of Sudan's peace agreement, William Kalema, then a freshman and now a current WCAS senior, was a summer intern with the International Law
Paul Farmer Inspires Students at Global Health Summit

When a 1000-seat auditorium at Northwestern sells out within days, disappointed would-be attendees usually miss out completely. But in the case of Dr. Paul Farmer’s keynote address at the 2010 GlobeMed Global Health Summit, an incredible 730 online viewers joined the live audience for one of the most inspiring lectures of the year. The webcast remains available at: www.globemed.org.

Organizers invited Farmer to give the keynote because they believe he exemplifies GlobMed’s driving goal, which Executive Director Jonathan Shaffer phrased, “to create the next generation of leaders.”

Farmer is founding director of Partners In Health, an international non-profit organization that provides direct health care services and undertakes research and advocacy on behalf of people who are sick and living in poverty. Following the catastrophic earthquake of January 2010, Farmer was appointed United Nations Deputy Special Envoy to Haiti. The subject of Tracy Kidder’s bestselling Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World, he is a physician and professor of Medical Anthropology at Harvard.

In his keynote, Farmer described the urgent need for scholars to undertake what he called “honest studies of how the aid machinery works,” because there is “something wrong” with the existing methods of many major organizations. In Haiti, there are more NGOs per capita than in any other country, but the situation of the Haitian people remained desperate, even before the disaster.

Farmer applauded the work of GlobeMed students and encouraged them to have “a broad vision of partnership”—to work within student organizations, team up with existing organizations like Partners in Health, and “find a place for yourselves in these broader efforts.” He emphasized the diversity of skills needed in the fight for global health. “The majority of people who need to do this work are not doctors,” he said, but include engineers, architects, teachers, experts in logistics, artists, and many others.

The Global Health Summit brings together undergraduates from across the country for lectures and workshops on global health. Twenty-five speakers and nearly 200 delegates participated in this year’s Summit.

GlobeMed is a network of university students who partner with grassroots organizations around the world to improve the health of the impoverished. The network will soon expand from nineteen to sixty university chapters. Its national office is housed at the Buffett Center.
Center for Forced Migration Studies (CFMS) Launches

by Galya Ruffer, International Studies Director, and CFMS Founding Director

What began last spring at the Buffett Center as the Center for Asylum Evidence Advocacy has now grown into the Center for Forced Migration Studies (CFMS) bringing together an interdisciplinary community of scholars and practitioners from the Chicago area interested in research, documentation and training in forced migration. In recent years, the concept of forced migration has challenged the field of refugee and migration studies to broaden its focus from movement across borders and a legal distinction between refugees and migrants, and to focus instead on the changing nature, causes and consequences of forced displacement and mass migrations—including internal displacement; crises of persistent and systemic violations of human rights; economic, environmental and development based displacement; and human smuggling and trafficking. Research in forced migration closely correlates with questions of sovereignty, failed states, security and conflict, nationalism, racial and ethnic identity, ethics, global health, poverty, natural disasters, food and energy crises, development and globalization. The CFMS has recently formed a faculty working group, and current affiliates include scholars from WCAS Departments of Political Science, Sociology, Economics, Anthropology and History; the Programs of International Studies and Environmental Policy and Culture; the Medill School of Journalism, the School of Communication and the School of Education and Social Policy; as well as scholars from neighboring institutions such as the University of Wisconsin and DePaul University. The CFMS also hosts graduate and undergraduate fellows and interns and provides documentation and research support to area organizations such as the National Immigrant Justice Center.

The new CFMS launched an inaugural speaker series, “From Refugee to Forced Migration Studies: Defining the Humanitarian Problem,” in order to raise awareness and reach out to faculty, students and local organizations and practitioners during this formative stage. Howard Adelman, founder of York University’s Center for Refugee Studies, presented the inaugural lecture of the series on January 20th speaking on “Refugees and the ‘Rite’ of Return.” He highlighted the transition from an international regime premised on the separation of ethnic populations or, as he called it, “ethnic cleansing,” until a post-World War II policy shift that, through the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), promoted the “right of return” as a human right. Adelman explored the origins of why the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, came to emphasize the foundational pillar of “non-refoulement,” meaning protection from forced return, while the UNRWA focused on the “right of return.” Through a global survey of actual cases of repatriation, he pointed to the gap between theory and the actual practice and feasibility of repatriation, arguing, in the end, for the need for a greater emphasis on resettlement.

The second event in the series brought the issue of resettlement to the fore through the screening of the film “Rebuilding Hope: A Documentary on South Sudan”, that follows the journey of three “lost boys,” now in their twenties, returning home after fleeing brutal civil war as children. Garang Mayuol, one of the boys featured in the film, led the discussion afterward and talked about their ongoing projects to drill wells, provide medical assistance and build a school in their home villages. He also fielded questions about the current political situation and chances for independence in South Sudan.

Upcoming events include a lecture on April 12 by professor and co-founder of the CFMS, Otunnu Ogenga, “Human Rights Relativism and Humanitarian Imperialism? Western Response to the Anti-Homosexuality Bill in Uganda,” hosted by the Program of African Studies. There will also be a panel discussion and presentation by the Climate Wise Women project on April 13th, co-sponsored with the Program for Environmental Policy and Culture. The event features four women community activists from the Cook Islands, the Carteret Islands off of Papua New Guinea, Uganda, and Biloxi, Mississippi, who are firmly engaged in dealing with the effects of disastrous climate change.

For information about affiliating with the CFMS or joining the Faculty Working Group please contact Galya Ruffer (g-ruffer@northwestern.edu).

♦
Institute in Kampala, Uganda. He was tasked with helping to set up a Legislative Drafting and Parliamentary Systems Diploma program for newly appointed Members of Parliament (MPs) from South Kordofan, Sudan—a region of the country heavily afflicted by the destructive war. Sudan’s Civil War left a vacuum of well-educated political leadership in the South and other marginalized areas, including South Kordofan, a contested region bordering the North and the South. After interviewing and speaking with a number of MPs, William realized that there is a tremendous need to build the governance capacity of regional leaders. To be effective leaders in implementing the peace agreement, the MPs cited the need to learn management skills, negotiation techniques, and strategic planning.

For the past two-and-a-half years since returning to campus, William, along with student colleagues, faculty and administrators, and partners outside the university, worked to set up the Sudan Good Governance Fellowship, a capacity building initiative aimed to equip SPLM political leaders from South Kordofan with the required tools to effectively implement key protocols of the CPA, whose implementation is stalled to this day. The successful implementation of the peace process in South Kordofan is crucial for the overall success of the CPA and for preventing a return to war across Sudan. The Fellowship program will begin in May and last six weeks covering curriculum in management; negotiation; consensus building; conflict and dispute resolution; problem solving and decision analysis; and strategic planning.

The Fellows were selected on the basis of key involvement in the peace process, recommendations from observers on the ground, and a strong command of English. The Faculty Lead and Principal Investigator for the program is John Hagan, the John D. MacArthur Professor of Sociology and Law. In addition to Kalema, the Fellowship team includes political science PhD students Maavi Norman, who is spearheading the design of the Kellogg component of the Fellowship; Khairunnisa Mohamedali, who is designing the curriculum; Aditi Malik, who is setting up a speaker’s series; and Ayuko Nimura.

The Fellowship program will be comprised of several parts. At the School of Continuing Studies and the Kellogg School of Management, the Fellows’ curriculum will emphasize management, leadership, negotiation techniques, strategic planning, policymaking, organizational behavior and dynamics, budgeting and resource allocation, conflict and dispute resolution, and project management. The Fellows will undergo a workshop on negotiation and mediation through Kellogg School of Management’s Dispute Resolution Research Center (DRRC). The goal behind this component of the Fellowship is to enhance the Fellows’ governance capacity in order to effectively implement key CPA protocols.

Running concurrently with the Fellows’ auditing of courses and workshops, the Buffett

---

Kalema continued from page 1

“This project represents the best example of institutional teamwork I have experienced in several decades of university life, from the core of undergraduate and graduate students led by William Kalema all the way up the institutional ladder to the President’s Office of Northwestern University, a remarkable collective effort for the extraordinarily important goal of helping to build capacity for peace in Sudan.”

— Professor John Hagan

Sudan Fellowship team (from left to right): William Kalema, Khairunnisa Mohamedali, Ayuko Nimura, Aditi Malik, and Maavi Norman
Center’s Sudan Series will bring in Sudan experts on topics relevant to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and governance capacity building. Following lectures, scholars will have the opportunity to meet privately with the Sudanese Fellows to engage in deeper discussions and offer advice. The Program of African Studies (PAS) will provide a venue within which the Fellows themselves will hold lectures for interested students.

Buffett Center Director, Hendrik Spruyt, emphasized that, “The Sudan Good Governance Fellowship Program is a striking example of what can be achieved at Northwestern because of its culture of interdisciplinary collaboration. This project draws on the strength of numerous Departments and Centers at the University, including the Kellogg School of Management, the School of Continuing Studies, and the Program of African Studies.”

The Fellows will then spend at least one week in Washington, DC, engaging with think tanks and organizations committed to peace building and good governance. The Fellows will also meet with members of Congress and policymakers interested in Sudan.

The final component of the Fellowship program entails the Fellows’ development of a written Action Plan, which they will implement upon return to Sudan. The goal behind the Action Plan is for the Fellows to think critically about the challenges in carrying out the peace agreement in the region and, using the skills they have developed over the course of the program, to devise solutions to those problems. A faculty working group will meet periodically to advise on the Action Plan’s development. The strategic advisor to the Three Areas’ Donors Steering Group in Sudan, which consists of European and North American donor countries, has expressed interest in receiving the Action Plan to determine support to its implementation upon the Fellows’ return.

The CPA is set to expire next year. A referendum will determine whether the South remains as part of the country or votes for separation. In many regions of the country, especially the South and the Three Areas, governance capacity building needs are great. By leveraging academic resources to strengthen governance, the Sudan Good Governance Fellowship is pushing forward the peace process in Sudan. This is a unique opportunity for Northwestern University.

William Kalema said, “There are so many people who have made this possible. Brian Hanson and Hendrik Spruyt of the Buffett Center have supported this project from the beginning, provided valuable guidance on so many substantive and administrative issues, and played an essential role in helping identify and connect people and programs across the university needed to build this program.” Kalema acknowledges the work of Sarah Fodor and Jennifer Lawrence, director and associate director, of the Office of Foundation Relations, who “went above and beyond in assisting in fundraising efforts and edited countless drafts of grant proposals.” He also credits Professor John Hagan, whose “passion and expertise on Sudan has guided the team.” Kalema further acknowledges “the invaluable assistance” of Ken Spear, the Acting Country Representative in Sudan at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID’s) Office of Transition Initiatives (OTTI), with whom he consulted extensively in designing this program.

While Fellows are at Northwestern, the Buffett Center will arrange public events for the Northwestern community to learn more about challenges on the ground in southern Sudan and the perspectives of these leaders.

We look forward to welcoming the Fellows in May.
and efforts.

The result is a multi-faceted website that provides users with instant access to information on 263 international programs offered by Northwestern. All NUGO content is accessible to all members of the Northwestern community and the larger public.

In the words of Buffett Center Director Hendrik Spruyt, “NUGO will demonstrate to the academic community and beyond that Northwestern has truly become a global university. It will be of great help to faculty and administrators in running these various programs and in devising the strategic plan for the next decade.”

The NUGO website shows the scope of Northwestern's global presence and opportunities, revealing information previously difficult to ascertain. A casual perusal of the website shows, for instance, that there are 158 programs for undergraduate students; 37 programs in Africa and 59 in Asia; 24 related to Global Health; 13 focusing on International Development; 42 with an internship or pre-professional component; and 27 in Spanish.

Various features are designed to serve different users, and individuals can browse or search for the programs relevant to them.

For example, a student or faculty member interested in France can see, at a glance, that of the programs available in that country, 13 are study abroad programs, 12 are visiting scholar pro-

grams, 6 are programs with an internship or pre-professional component, 4 are joint degrees, one is a short-term study tour and one a fellowship specifically designed for work in France. Brief yet comprehensive descriptions of every program help the user to narrow down the overwhelming number of opportunities.

Alternately, a user searching for fellowships and grants provided by Northwestern having an international component will find 34 offerings, including 24 options for undergraduates, 14 for graduate students, 7 for faculty, and 2 available to post-docs.

Users can search for specific programs of interest, or utilize the website's filtering tools to better understand the comprehensive nature of Northwestern's global profile. Users can sort information by location, language, program type, Northwestern sponsor, participants, affiliated organizations (such as international universities, NGOs, and private foundations), or any combination of these categories. In doing so, users can learn about opportunities available to them, or gain a better understanding of Northwestern's strengths or areas where there are gaps in our current offerings.

The People Search feature profiles over 200 Northwestern faculty and administrators with international interests. The NUGO website captures searchable information regarding individuals’ affiliations at Northwestern (such as depart-

Continually updating charts provide the “big picture” of Northwestern’s global programming. This chart shows programs by type; additional charts show programs by school, language, and year of creation.
ments, centers, and institutes), languages of proficiency, countries and regions of interest, and keywords describing thematic interests (such as migration, energy, fertility, linguistics, or nuclear proliferation). This will enable faculty to discover new possibilities for research and teaching collaborations, administrators to identify emerging scholarly trends, and current and prospective students to learn strong areas of expertise at the University.

In the words of Provost Dan Linzer, “It is great to see this new resource become available for students and faculty so that they can quickly navigate through the many global opportunities that Northwestern provides for study and collaboration.”

**Origins of the Project**

International programming at Northwestern is diverse and has grown exponentially in recent years. There are manifold international learning experiences available for Northwestern students and faculty, including study abroad, short-term study tours, joint degrees, the branch campus in Qatar, fellowships and awards, student group programs, internships and pre-professional programs, executive and professional education programs, and visiting scholar programs, both to and from Northwestern.

These programs are built on affiliations with prestigious international universities, innovative non-governmental organizations throughout the world, experienced third-party program providers meeting specific needs of the University, and creative and industrious faculty members and administrators who have established programming that gives Northwestern community members the ability to have teaching, research, and learning experiences abroad, or brings international students and scholars to Northwestern to add to the diversity of thought on our home campuses.

Likewise, the international teaching and research interests of Northwestern faculty and administrators are far reaching, extending beyond traditional disciplinary lines into exciting new areas of inquiry and collaboration. Many interdisciplinary research centers and working groups already capitalize on these intersecting interests, but other opportunities are waiting to be realized and tapped into.

Recognizing this, the Provost appointed a committee of faculty members and administrators in 2002 to address the issue of Northwestern’s global profile. A key recommendation of this committee was to create a central portal to provide information about all international programs at Northwestern University and to facilitate better communication and cooperation.

**Building NUGO**

With support from the Office of the Provost and Provost Daniel Linzer, a team came together to fulfill this recommendation. Because no peer university has implemented such a comprehensive and continually evolving resource for international programming, the project team had to start from scratch—identifying target users, determining the essential information to be collected, and creating a website model that would make the wealth of data conveniently available to many kinds of users.

In 2008 Meghan Beltmann joined the Buffett Center as program coordinator, tasked with gathering information and creating a website to inventory Northwestern’s international programs. Beltmann worked with Buffett Center Assistant Director Krzysztof Kozubski to create the concept for the website and give shape to the idea, in concert with Buffett Center Director Hendrik Spruyt and Associate Director Brian Hanson. Beltmann’s background in international education and study abroad combined with Kozubski’s experience with database and website design made it possible for them to determine how best to pursue the project.

In order to begin collecting information about international programming at Northwestern, Beltmann first made a thorough survey of the web pages of each school, center, program, and institute in order to find existing international programs. She then met with almost 100 faculty members, administrators, and staff representing each of the schools at Northwestern, as well as additional centers and offices, such as the
Study Abroad Office, the Office of International Program Development, the Buffett Center, the Office of the Provost, and Northwestern University in Qatar. Beltmann also met with users who would benefit from having access to a centralized point of information regarding international programs, including representatives from Risk Management, the University Library, Career Services, the International Office, Accounting Services, the Office for Fellowships, and Alumni Relations and Development. These meetings, which took place throughout 2009, made it possible to learn from members of the Northwestern community what features would be useful for them, and many of their ideas were incorporated into the final design of the website.

In addition to collecting information about international programming at Northwestern, Beltmann compiled profiles for over 200 faculty members and administrators to be included on the NUGO site. These were sent to the individuals, who then had the opportunity to make changes and additions in order to ensure that the profiles adequately described their involvement at the University, and their international teaching and research interests.

To develop the final website, Beltmann and Kozubski worked with Harlan Wallach, Chris Wallace, Jon Fernandez, and Dave Look of Northwestern University Advanced Media Production Studio (NUAMPS). NUAMPS, known by many for its work in developing the Northwestern iPhone App, is a division of NUIT’s Academic and Research Technologies. Beltmann and Kozubski chose NUAMPS over several award-winning web developers from outside the University, for its solution-oriented style and its pairing of innovative technologies with professional design. Harlan Wallach, Digital Media Architect Lead, relished what he called “a real intellectual challenge associated with information design in organizing a broad set of individual program components, and then making it available in an accessible and understandable fashion.”

Looking Ahead

There are many immediate practical applications for the NUGO website. At the institutional level, it enables senior administrators who are making strategic decisions to visualize the overall map of Northwestern’s international activities into which new programs will fit and to identify gaps and opportunities in Northwestern’s offerings. At the individual level it provides a central information portal for students, staff, and faculty members wanting to take part in existing international programming. It aids in the identification of possibilities for beneficial synergy and coordination by highlighting people on campus with experience, advice, and resources helpful to those creating new international programs. It enhances efforts to present a comprehensive picture of Northwestern’s international profile for those outside of the University community, raising the visibility of the many excellent programs at Northwestern.

NUGO has already launched, but it will continue to evolve according to the needs of the Northwestern community. Beltmann will continue updating the website to reflect additions and changes to the international offerings at Northwestern. New programs and faculty and administrator profiles can be added to the site at anytime.

In the future, the NUGO website will offer informational resources for undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty interested in building new international initiatives at Northwestern. That portion of the website is expected to launch in the fall of 2010.

We hope you will visit www.global.northwestern.edu to experience the Northwestern University Global Opportunities (NUGO) website and explore its many features. If you would like to add your Northwestern faculty or administrator profile, or if you know of an ongoing international program at Northwestern that is not currently on the NUGO site, contact NUGO Administrator Meghan Beltmann at global@northwestern.edu.
The 195 Website Connects Students Traveling Abroad and Builds Networks for Global Involvement
by Medill students Shanika Gunaratna, Tracy Fuad, and Adam Sege

Our vision for The 195 was dreamed up in a late-night conversation last winter about our overlapping loves of journalism, storytelling, and travel. We talked about the stories we had heard from a friend traveling in Nepal, and we wondered what stories from friends around the world never manage to find their way back to Evanston. We believed then, and still do now, that the stories of college students experiencing and impacting countries around the globe have the power to build the fabric of global community.

The result of that conversation is The 195 (www.the195.com), a multimedia storytelling platform that allows Northwestern students to read about the adventures, shocks and epiphanies of their fellow students as they venture far from the confines of Evanston. What does “195” stand for? It is the number of countries in the world—and a continuous reminder of the countless opportunities for new cultural experience.

Our vision has evolved exponentially since last spring, when we scribbled website layouts on napkins, bounced ideas off anyone who would listen, and leveraged our resources to make our idea a reality. By June, we had a finished product: a beautifully designed, custom-developed multimedia site that would serve both the Northwestern community and anyone else interested in travel. Within days of launching, the site was featured on the New York Times’ multimedia editor’s Twitter feed. Within weeks, we had our first round of contributors leaving to countries including India, Iraq, South Korea, Israel and Croatia, where they would document their experiences through stories, photos, and videos. Within months, we had a global following, with site views from Canada, Sierra Leona and Yemen. This fall, The 195 officially expanded to another community of students: Brandeis University in Boston, which now has its own website (www.the195.com/brandeis).

Since our launch in June 2009, The 195 has showcased the stories, photos and videos of more than 40 Northwestern students traveling in over 30 countries. With each blog post, reader comment and page view, we inch towards our ultimate goal: to help bridge the gap between college campuses and the far reaches of the world.

We are excited to partner with the Buffett Center and develop the website in new and exciting ways. With the Center’s support, we plan to host face-to-face gatherings for former contributors in order to build on the growing network of storytellers. We also plan to expand the multimedia content of the website. Multimedia is a key component of our approach, as contributor Hannah Robbins (WCAS ’09) explains. Robbins is currently backpacking through Latin America, searching for community-based health organizations interested in partnering with new chapters of GlobeMed students in the United States. “By not only writing about our travels, but also being able to use video, pictures and sound to draw in readers, we’ve found that more people in our personal and extraneous networks are interacting with our blog,” Robbins says.

These expanding networks are the fuel behind The 195. We hope to push the act of blogging beyond its usual capacity of forging connections within an individual’s own social network. To us, blogging is a remarkable tool for provoking globally-minded conversation between strangers in scattered countries across the world.

A street in Seoul, South Korea, from the travels of co-creator Shanika Gunaratna
by Alice Cherry, WCAS Senior and 2009 GESI
India Alum

Having just returned, reluctantly, from India—but determined to sustain a connection with Indian people and culture—I knew last fall that I wanted to interview Indian immigrants for my senior thesis. What I could not know before I began my research was that my recent experience in India would prove so valuable.

Last summer, eleven intrepid interns and I spent seven weeks in Udaipur, India, as part of the Global Engagement Summer Institute (GESI). In teams of four, we volunteered at local NGOs to complete community development projects in areas like education, microfinance, and the environment. As part of my internship, I visited rural villages and asked inhabitants about critical local issues such as water scarcity and forest depletion. I also lived with a host family. Through these experiences I saw firsthand what daily life is like for many Indians—poor farmers, NGO staff, wealthy housewives, young college students, and family servants. This not only made a deep impression on me but came tumbling back in December, when I began my senior thesis research on the practice of home gardening among first-generation Indian immigrant women in the U.S.

That most of my interviewees had come from Gujarat—a prominent subject in conversations with my host parents, who have family in that region—was a lucky accident; however, the usefulness of my GESI internship did not end there. Home gardening is inextricably related to broader (and complex and utterly foreign) dynamics of class, gender, and religion in Indian society. Thus, for example, my interviewees made references to the ubiquity of hired help, the satisfactions of homemaking, and the connections between God and nature. During these conversations I recalled particular people and events from last summer: Durga, the girl who had dusted the floor of my room each morning; the pride and flourish with which my host mother had served home-cooked meals; and how spirituality had permeated my conversations with everyone from rural farmers to jewelry store owners to NGO workers. Each of these vivid experiences illuminated the responses of my interviewees in a way that simply reading about Indian history and culture cannot.

I asked the women about how they valued their home gardens in India and whether some among them intentionally avoided gardening after migration. I discovered that they found home gardening satisfying for a variety of reasons that were deeply personal and lovingly recounted; lamented the loss of this activity; and took creative steps to cope with this loss, find substitutes, or even partially recreate their gardens. All identified external circumstances such as space or time constraints—rather than their own interest level—as the primary obstacles to gardening in Chicago. Finally, many interviewees who work in Chicago reported finding more satisfaction in gardening than in their jobs or preferring a balance between them. These results suggest that home gardens are important not just as biological or economic systems of production, but as arenas in which women exercise agency, and that gardening can continue to support women’s agency after migration to developed countries.

Because of my GESI experience, I was able to ask better questions during my senior thesis research, contextualize participants’ responses into a larger cultural framework and appreciate what I still have left to learn. GESI introduced me to a place and people that I will assuredly return to again. In the meantime, it is more than enough that GESI provided inspiration and experiences that have taken me far—much further than would have otherwise been possible—in my senior thesis research.
by Hannah Smith, WCAS Senior and 2009 GESI Uganda Alum

I spent my summer in Buwaiswa, Uganda as part of the Global Engagement Summer Institute Program. Buwaiswa is a rural village about two hours outside of Jinja that embodies most of what you might envision of the stereotyped “real Africa.” My life in Buwaiswa was vivid, captivating, tragic, heartbreaking, and consistently filled with joy.

There were many challenges that I encountered throughout my time in Buwaiswa, but the most difficult issue that I faced was undoubtedly witnessing the unwarranted treatment of select women in my host village. Some community members lived by and supported the very patriarchal belief that a woman’s main role is to serve the family, in whatever way the husband requires. Many believed that women do not have any rights of their own. In one instance a friend stated, “a woman deserves to be beaten if she cheats but a man can cheat or have as many wives as he wants.”

The fervor and intensity with which various members of my host community supported this viewpoint caused me to think about the rest of the world, and the number of women subjected to the adverse consequences of these beliefs. Thus, when I arrived in Paris for my fall study abroad experience and enrolled in a research seminar, I decided to formulate a research question that examined this issue.

Specifically, I looked at how societies that demonstrate patriarchal values through implemented gender norms can negatively impact a woman’s health. A team of four other Northwestern students and I examined women’s health in terms of breast cancer, cervical cancer, maternal mortality, pregnancy and child bearing, contraception, sexually transmitted infections, female genital mutilation, rape in marriage and armed conflict, domestic violence, AIDS, infertility, and post-partum depression.

We compared whether women who were a part of patriarchal societies experienced more negative health consequences than women in more gender-equal societies. We reviewed available secondary literature extensively to examine this issue, focusing on NGOs such as MSF, World Health Organization, and other local organizations in Latin America, Southeast Asia, and countries throughout Africa.

Upon examination of these thirteen different aspects, we found that women living in strongly patriarchal cultures faced much more difficulty within these health areas than women not living in these cultures. Our conclusion was that patriarchal beliefs and the implied gender roles that accompany these values are correlated with negative health outcomes.

However, we recognize that other factors (like health care access, country GDP, and geographical location) could also affect this correlation and believe future research should examine those potential connections as well.

Nevertheless, patriarchy plays a role in contributing to the negative health status of women throughout the world, and it is vital for civil sector, government, and global organizations to take further initiative in reducing health disparities of women in these patriarchal societies.

I am incredibly thankful to GESI, Buwaiswa, and most importantly, my host community, for giving me the life-changing experience I had this summer. My eight weeks there were the most liberating, challenging, and joyful moments of my life. It opened my eyes to the reality of life for many families around the globe, and in turn, has and will continue to encourage me to explore and advocate for the unjust issues that these families are forced to endure. ♦
EVENTS

International Conference on the Middle East in the 1950s, April 25-27

A high profile international conference sponsored by the Buffett Center and the Crown Family Center for Jewish Studies is set to be held this April 25-27 at Northwestern University. Titled “The Middle East in the 1950s – Historical Perspectives: Israel, the Arab World and the Great Powers,” this three day event will bring together noted scholars from across North America, Europe, and the Middle East to examine this crucial period in the region’s history. The conference is co-chaired by Professors Hendrik Spruyt and Elie Rekhess.

During this era, the fall of the old order led to the rise of military-revolutionary regimes in the Arab world. Traditional concepts of Arab nationalism were replaced by more radical, secular-oriented ideologies. The subsequent collapse of these political paradigms eventually created a vacuum that paved the way for strengthening the territorial nation-state and Islamist movements. Parochial loyalties and sectarian identities, along with local and ethnic forms of nationalism, replaced the all-binding broad notion of a unified Arab world.

Under these changing circumstances, Israel also became a powerful regional actor both militarily and politically. The 1948 war and the evolving Arab-Israeli conflict had a significant impact on Israel’s internal and external affairs. Additionally, with the decline of the imperial capabilities of Britain and France following WWII, and particularly after the Suez crises of 1956, the USSR emerged as a major player while the United States enhanced its active involvement in Middle East affairs.

The conference will re-examine the past body of research on this period, re-assess its methodologies and findings, discuss the new scholarship, and thus attempt to achieve a more nuanced appreciation of the Middle East, past and present.

The keynote address will be given by renowned historian of British imperial history William Roger Louis, who currently holds the Kluge Chair at the Library of Congress. His talk on the 1950s in Historical Perspective will be held at the McCormick Tribune Center Forum at 5 pm on Sunday evening, April 25.

Other speakers scheduled for the Monday and Tuesday will include Orit Bashkin, Uri Bialer, Neil Caplan, Adeed Dawisha, Shai Feldman, Saad Eddin Ibrahim, James Jankowski, Guy Laron, David Lesch, Benny Morris, Muhammad Muslih, James Piscatori, Elie Rekhess, Emile Sahliyeh, Asher Susser, David Tal, and Ilan Troen. Panels will explore the emergence and demise of Pan-Arabism, Nasserism, and Arab Socialism, the domestic affairs of Arab states, the emergence of Palestinian national identity and political organization, the internal and external politics of the nascent Israeli state, and Great Power involvement in the region. All panels will be free and open to the public and campus community.

Northwestern faculty and Middle East scholars from across Chicago have been invited to participate as have members of the graduate and undergraduate student community. In addition to its primary organizational sponsors, the conference will be co-sponsored by the Northwestern University Middle East Forum, the Middle East and North Africa Working Group, the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, the Northwestern Department of History, and the Chabraja Center for Historical Studies.

For a full schedule and additional information visit: www.bcics.northwestern.edu/programs/numef
New Directions in Middle East and North African Studies
Symposium, May 20-21

On May 20-21, the Middle East and North African Studies Working Group (MENA) will host a major
 two-day symposium entitled “New Directions in Middle East and North African Studies.”

The event, open to the public, features eight scholars working in various disciplines and time periods of
Middle East studies, each in his or her own way bringing unique or paradigm shifting approaches to their
discipline and the field at large.

“This is an exciting time for Middle East studies at Northwestern. These scholars are among the best and
brightest and to have them on campus for an extended conversation is an extraordinary opportunity for North-
western students and faculty,” says Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, co-chair of MENA and assistant professor of
political science.

“Working in fields such as anthropology, political science, literature and religion, these scholars represent the
vanguard of Middle East studies,” says Brian Edwards, co-chair of MENA and associate professor of English
and comparative literary studies.

Created in 2007 by Edwards and Hurd, with support from the Buffett Center, the intellectual goal of
the MENA group is to rethink Middle East and North African Studies as an interdisciplinary field after the cri-
tique of “Area Studies.” The group is made up of faculty from a number of disciplines drawn from four schools
at Northwestern (WCAS, Communication, Music, and Law). The group meets to discuss new work in the field
and to consider the development of Middle East and North African studies at Northwestern.

This event represents the first public symposium organized by MENA. Speakers were nominated by
members of the working group.

“The opportunity for members of the Northwestern community to interact with these leading scholars
represents a wonderful opportunity at a key moment in the development of MENA Studies at Northwestern,”
Edwards said.

In the past three years, Northwestern has invested heavily in the development of Middle East and North
African studies, hiring exceptional new faculty in history, anthropology, political science, and the humanities.
Two faculty searches this academic year, one in late Ottoman/Turkish Republic history and another in
modern Middle Eastern literature, are nearing completion. MENA members have advised on directions for
developing the field and served on search committees.

“This symposium allows us to pause after an exceptional period of development of MENA Studies at
Northwestern, and reflect on new work and new directions in the field at large,” Edwards said.

“The MENA group has brought together scholars from across the university with interests in the region.
With this symposium we look forward to bringing this collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to the
region to the broader Northwestern community,” said Elizabeth Hurd.

The symposium is co-sponsored by the Center for Global Culture and Communication, an initiative of
the School of Communication, and the Buffett Center. Northwestern’s Asian and Middle East Studies Program
(AMES) is also providing financial support.

Speakers will include Hussein Agrama, anthropology and law (University of Chicago); Melani Cammett,
political science (Brown); Ilana Feldman, anthropology and international affairs (George Washington); Li
Guo, classics, Mamluk period (Notre Dame); Charles Hirschkind, anthropology, new media (UC Berkeley);
Megan Reid, religion, Medieval Islam (USC), Samah Selim, modern Arabic literature (Rutgers); and Paul
Silverstein, anthropology (Reed).

For a full schedule and additional information visit:
www.bcics.northwestern.edu/groups/mena

♦
With the support of Foreign Affairs Canada and the Initiative for Sustainability and Energy at Northwestern (ISEN), the Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies is organizing a workshop dealing with energy issues in the United States and Canada with particular reference to the oil and gas sector. The workshop will be held as part of Northwestern University’s broader interest in energy issues and sustainability and will specifically—but not exclusively—focus on the political, social and environmental ramifications of oil sands production.

Contrary to public perception, Canada is the largest oil exporter to the United States, ahead of Saudi Arabia. Ever since Richard Nixon claimed that the United States should seek energy independence, the prospect of acquiring energy supplies from domestic sources as well as from neighboring countries such as Canada and Mexico has seemed attractive to analysts and politicians alike.

Given continued instability in the Middle East and other major oil producing states such as Nigeria, Angola, and Venezuela, and with increasing doubts about the nature of U.S.-Russian relations, recent presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama have renewed the call for greater energy independence. The discovery and exploitation of the shale oil sands in Canada, mostly concentrated in the province of Alberta, bolster such objectives. Indeed, the proven reserves of these oil sands—170 billion barrels—rank second only to the reserves of Saudi Arabia. Relatively high oil prices in recent years have made such oil economically competitive. Moreover, despite interests in renewable energy supplies and clean energy production, oil, gas and coal will remain key bridge energies until the full development of alternative energy sources.

The exploitation of oil sands, however, raises several issues. First, oil and gas production and the growing role of Alberta’s oil sands have significant environmental consequences. The reliance on oil and gas for energy consumption contributes directly to greenhouse-emissions. At the same time its large-scale production threatens forest ecology and riparian areas.

Second, the presence of multiple levels of governance presents a host of questions. How does provincial or state level policy relate to federal energy policy? Are local rights (indigenous rights; local communities) provided a voice in the decision making process? How has NAFTA continued to influence the North American picture?

Third, given the negative environmental consequences and relatively low royalties, the local population in Alberta has questioned the leasing arrangements between the state government and the oil producing companies. The workshop aims to analyze which factors determine these leasing arrangements.

This workshop will bring together some of the foremost experts who have worked on the oil and gas sector in the North American context, particularly Canada. Among the attendees will be Ian Urquhart and Andre Plourde both from the University of Alberta, George Hoberg, University of British Columbia, Jeffrey Phillips, Natural Resources Canada; Charles Doran, Johns Hopkins University; and Angela Carrer, Cornell University.

The workshop is open to the public. However, we do ask you to RSVP in advance with Jesse Dillon Savage: jesse-savage@northwestern.edu.
Spring Events Calendar

APRIL

The Future of Islam
John L. Esposito, Georgetown University
Wednesday, April 7 at 12pm - McCormick Tribune Forum, 1870 Campus Dr., Evanston

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » How the International Monetary Fund Became the Johnny Appleseed of Neoliberal Economics
Steve Nelson, Political Science
Friday, April 9 at 12pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Soyuz Symposium » Old and New Discourses and Ideologies of Power: Postsocialist Perspectives
keynote by Andrew Wachtel, Slavic Languages & Literatures
April 9-10; for schedule see: www.bcics.northwestern.edu/events/conferences

Between Two Worlds: My Life and Captivity in Iran
Roxana Saberi, Journalist
Tuesday, April 13 at 4pm - McCormick Tribune Forum, 1870 Campus Dr., Evanston
co-sponsored with Medill as a part of the Crain Lecture Series

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » What Went Wrong at Nuernberg? The Case of IG Farben
Stephan Lindner, Buffett Center
Friday, April 16 at 12pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Development Series » The Idea of Justice
Amartya Sen, Harvard, Nobel Laureate in Economics
Thursday, April 22 at 7pm - Owen L. Coon Forum, Jacobs Center, 2001 Sheridan Rd., Evanston

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » Closing Interpretive Disputes in International Law: The Case of North Atlantic and European Treaties
Grégoire Mallard, Sociology
Friday, April 23 at 12pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

The Middle East in the 1950s: Historical Perspectives Israel, the Arab World, and the Great Powers
April 25-27; for schedule see: www.bcics.northwestern.edu/programs/numef/1950s.html

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » After the Revolution: Problems of Writing in Postrevolutionary Haiti
Doris Garraway, French & Italian
Friday, April 30 at 12pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

MAY

Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History
Thomas Barfield, Boston University
Wednesday, May 5 at 4pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Countries in Crisis: Halting the Slide Toward Failure
Kira Kay, Jason Maloney, and Jon Sawyer, journalists
Thursday, May 6 at 7pm - Hardin Hall,
Rebecca Crown Center, 633 Clark St., Evanston

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » Public Opinion and International Intervention: Lessons from the Iraq War
Richard Sobel, Buffett Center
Friday, May 7 at 12pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Keyman Modern Turkish Studies » The Winter Thief
Jenny White, author
Wednesday, May 12 at 4pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Faculty & Fellows Colloquium » Forging Fear: Hindu Nationalists and India's Muslims
Jock McLane, History
Friday, May 14 at 12pm - Buffett Center Conference Rm.

Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Conference » Turkey's Emerging Role in its Neighborhood
Monday, May 17, 9am to 5pm - Hardin Hall,
Rebecca Crown Center, 633 Clark St., Evanston

New Directions in Middle East and North African Studies Symposium
May 20-21; for schedule see: www.bcics.northwestern.edu/groups/mena

Global Energy Workshop » Canadian-United States Energy Issues after Copenhagen
Friday, May 28; for schedule see: www.bcics.northwestern.edu/events/conferences

Development Series » The Plundered Planet: Why We Must—and How We Can—Manage Nature for Global Prosperity
Paul Collier, Oxford University, former director of Development Research at the World Bank
Friday, May 28 at 4pm - Owen L. Coon Forum, Jacobs Center, 2001 Sheridan Rd., Evanston

Join our email list at: www.bcics.northwestern.edu/join
Visit us on facebook: www.facebook.com/buffettcenter
Annual Buffett Lecture Draws a Crowd