Democracy and good governance are under challenge wherever we look. Several officials of the government of Malawi have been arrested on graft charges. Its president, Joyce Banda, was pressured by aid donors to reduce corruption. She responded by dissolving the cabinet. The Central African Republic, after years of catastrophic governance, is described as “an utterly lawless and terrifying country.” In a searing op-ed in the *New York Times*, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, while defending the International Criminal Court and the cases brought against African leaders, states: “the continent has suffered the consequences of unaccountable governance for too long.” What is at issue is “the quality of leadership and democracy in many African countries.”

M. Crawford Young, the former president of the African Studies Association, has argued that the political problems of Africa are too complex to be adequately captured by any one scholar. Faculty affiliates Richard Joseph (Political Science) continued on page 6

**EDGS Research Grants for Northwestern Faculty and Graduate Students**

*by Elizabeth R. Morrissey, EDGS Program Manager*

The Equality Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) program provides significant research support for Northwestern faculty and graduate students. Last March, EDGS awarded $80,000 in funding for faculty research and symposiums and more than $25,000 for graduate student summer research. In prior rounds of funding, support has been spread across the departments of Anthropology, Economics, History, Law, Political
MISSION

The Buffett Center sponsors and facilitates collaborative interdisciplinary scholarship on crucial problems facing the world. Our activities promote dialogue on international affairs thereby enriching educational programming at Northwestern and beyond. Working with a variety of organizations and communities, we contribute to preparing global citizens.

CONTACT

Buffett Center, Northwestern University
1902 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL 60208-4005

Tel: 847-467-2770
Fax: 847-467-1996
buffettcenter@northwestern.edu

CONNECT

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NEWSLETTER

EDITOR
Krzysztof Kozubski
(kozubski@northwestern.edu)

ASSISTANT EDITOR & WRITER
J. Daniel Elam

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT INSERT EDITOR
Patrick Eccles
Recent Publications by Buffett Center Affiliates

BOOKS


Under constant surveillance and policed by increasingly militarized means, Arizona’s border is portrayed in the media as a site of sharp political and ethnic divisions. But this view obscures the region’s deeper history. Bringing to light the shared cultural and commercial ties through which businessmen and politicians forged a transnational Sunbelt, Cadava recovers the vibrant connections between Tucson, Arizona, and the neighboring Mexican state of Sonora.


Fine argues that the basic building blocks of society are forged within the boundaries of “tiny publics.” Action, meaning, authority, inequality, organization, and institutions all have their roots in small groups. Yet for the past twenty-five years social scientists have tended to ignore the power of groups in favor of an emphasis on organizations, societies, or individuals. Based on over thirty-five years of his own ethnographic research, Fine presents a compelling new theory of the pivotal role of small groups in organizing social life.


Dress and fashion practices in Africa and the diaspora are dynamic and diverse, whether on the street or on the fashion runway. *African Dress* explores how ideas and practices of dress contest or legitimize existing power structures through expressions of individual identity and the cultural and political order. Drawing on innovative, interdisciplinary research by established and up and coming scholars, the book examines real life projects and social transformations that are deeply political, revolving around individual and public goals of dignity, respect, status, and morality.


Margulies reveals that for key elements of the post-9/11 landscape—especially support for counterterror policies like torture and hostility to Islam—American identity is not only darker than it was before September 11, 2001, but substantially more repressive than it was immediately after the attacks. These repressive attitudes, Margulies argues, have taken hold even as the terror threat has diminished significantly.


Successful democracies throughout history—from ancient Athens to Britain on the cusp of the industrial age—have used the technology of their time to gather information for better governance. The challenge is no different today, but it is more urgent because the accelerating pace of technological change creates potentially enormous dangers as well as benefits. *Accelerating Democracy* provides a blueprint for how to adapt democracy to new information technologies that can enhance political decision making and enable people to navigate the social rapids ahead.

continued on page 4
ARTICLES


The ECOWAS Community Court of Justice (ECCJ) is an increasingly active and bold international adjudicator of human rights violations in West Africa. Alter and her colleagues explain why ECOWAS member states authorized the ECCJ to review human rights suits by individuals but did not allow private actors to complain about violations of regional economic rules.


Beaman examines the dynamic implications of social networks for the labor market outcomes of refugees resettled in the US. Her results indicate that an increase in the number of social network members resettled in the same year or one year prior to a new arrival leads to a deterioration of outcomes, while a greater number of tenured network members improves the probability of employment and raises the hourly wage.


This article analyzes recent research on the newspaper crisis. It discusses how authors have examined the sources, manifestations, and implications of this crisis, and the proposals to resolve it. Building on this assessment, the article outlines an agenda for future work that fosters an analysis of the process, history, comparative development, and manifold implications of this crisis, and advances various empirical strategies to examine some of its most under-theorized dimensions.


Caverley and Kapstein argue that by placing an excessive emphasis on the development of military technology and the acquisition of costly weapons systems and other military equipment, the US has forfeited its dominant position in the market for arms transfers to foreign countries to competitors including Russia, China, and Israel. The development of the F-35 jet fighter plane is cited as an example of how US military planning’s focus on advanced technology has negatively affected the competitive position of the country’s defense industries.


Popular narratives assume that digital media play a central role mobilizing voters and especially young adults. Based on unique survey data of a diverse group of young adults from Spring 2009, Hargittai and Shaw consider the relationship between differentiated internet uses, and online and offline political engagement around the time of the 2008 US presidential election. They find an association between Internet skills, social network site usage and greater levels of engagement. These findings imply that although Internet usage alone is unlikely to transform existing patterns in political participation radically, it may facilitate the creation of new pathways for engagement.


The notion that religion had been ignored and should be “brought back in” to International Relations has recently taken center stage among many academics and practitioners. Hurd undertakes a critical analysis of this restorative narrative and the religious and political world it is creating, and proposes a different approach to the intersection of religion and world politics after secularism.


Deforestation is responsible for 20 percent of
anthropogenic carbon emissions, and today most of it occurs in developing countries. Curbing deforestation in poor countries is potentially one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce carbon emissions and to address climate change. One popular policy approach to reducing deforestation is to pay forest owners for avoiding deforestation on their land. This type of policy is called “payments for ecosystem services” (PES); payments are made conditional on voluntary pro-environment behaviors. Jayachandran considers how the effectiveness of such incentive payments depends on the time profile of forest owners’ opportunity costs. The time profile of opportunity costs theoretically becomes quite important to the success of a PES program when credit markets are imperfect.


Criminal punishment is systematically harsher, given a fixed crime, where victims are vulnerable or innocent, and systematically less harsh where victims are powerful or culpable. Kleinfeld sets forth the concept of “victimization”—the idea that the moral status of a wrongful act turns in part on the degree to which the wrong’s victim is vulnerable or innocent and the wrongdoer preys upon that vulnerability or innocence. It shows the concept to be implicit in both the doctrine and practice of criminal law.


The centenary of Claude Lévi-Strauss’ birth, and his death shortly afterwards, have generated a spurt of publications ranging from biographies to collections of essays to unpublished works. Some of these works dwell on his worldview, his preoccupations with globalization, overpopulation, and the environment, albeit in ways that reflect the poverty of his sociological analysis. Launay argues that re-appraisals of his structural approaches to the study of kinship, myth, and aesthetics are more relevant to contemporary approaches in anthropology, especially those that stress his paradoxical wedding of primary sensuous experience to abstract patterns of thought.


Mahoney and his colleagues compare statistical and set-theoretic approaches to causal analysis. Statistical researchers commonly use additive, linear causal models, whereas set-theoretic researchers typically use logic-based causal models. They conclude by urging greater appreciation of the differences between the statistical and set-theoretic approaches to causal analysis.


This essay advances a partisan entrenchment logic to explain the variation in the approaches of Republican and Democratic administrations to Alien Tort Statute adjudication. Under this logic, presidents and judges are political actors whose partisan (or ideological) preferences regarding international law will sometimes trump their institutional or interpretive empire-building objectives.


How does Asian American advertising contribute to the construction of race and ethnicity in the contemporary United States? Shankar considers how executives write advertising copy and create original artwork for Asian American advertisements in ways that index brand identities, and shows how racialization occurs through the transformation of Asian Americans from model minority producers into model minority consumers.


Winegar challenges assumptions about political transformation by contrasting women’s experiences at home during the Egyptian revolution with the image of the iconic male revolutionary in Tahrir Square. She calls attention to the way that revolution is experienced and undertaken in domestic spaces, through different forms of affect, in ways deeply inflected by gender and class.
and Rachel Riedl (Political Science) have helped create the Working Group on Democracy and Governance in Africa to serve as a site for collaborative research, discussion, and policy outreach at Northwestern, and thus respond to Young’s claim. In addition to African Studies and Political Science, Northwestern is home to several programs and centers whose work and interests dovetail with those of the Working Group: the Buffett Center, the Melville J. Herskovits Memorial Library, the International Studies Program, the Program in Middle East and North Africa, Equality Development and Globalization Studies, and many other academic and interdisciplinary units.

Joseph and Riedl, whose books on governance in Africa are being published or re-published by Cambridge University Press in early 2014, will serve as the group’s initial leaders. The working group will also have a graduate coordinator, Elise Dufief (Political Science), and an undergraduate coordinator, Spencer Hodge. It will thus draw on the strengths of faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students whose focus falls on the disciplinary fields that intersect with African Studies.

Riedl, Joseph, and Dufief will give the first presentations of the Working Group on January 15, February 19, and March 5, respectively. Roger Myerson, Nobel Laureate and Economics Professor at the University of Chicago, and Célestin Monga, a Cameroonian national and Senior Advisor at the World Bank, will inaugurate the lecture series on March 6. Larry Diamond, Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institute at Stanford University, will follow on April 17; and Daniel Brumberg, Professor of Government at Georgetown University, will speak at a later date.

Sub-Saharan Africa has undergone a triple transformation over the past quarter-century. More Africans enjoy greater political freedom, and the capacity to hold governments accountable, than ever before. After a few decades of stalled growth, most African economies are experiencing steady expansion since the mid-1990s. And, despite persistent conflicts in several nations, all the major wars in Africa have ended. With dozens of African countries experiencing political liberalization since the late 1980s, there is much comparative research to be conducted. Yet most states, despite political progress, are still badly governed: core institutions are weak, basic infrastructures inadequate, and public good provisions deficient.

In short, this is an exciting period for the study of Africa. Northwestern, with its great assets in African Studies as well as the newly inaugurated Middle East and North Africa program, should be at the forefront of contemporary concerns in collaborative scholarship, teaching, and policy analysis. The Working Group on Democracy and Governance in Africa represents an important step in fulfilling this mission.

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Democracy and Governance in Africa continued from page 1

Zambia’s President Kenneth Kaunda following his defeat in the October 1991 Elections. From left: Larry Garber and Brian Atwood (National Democratic Institute), President Carter, President Kaunda, Mrs. Carter, and Richard Joseph.
EDGS Hosts Inaugural Rajawali Distinguished Lecture with Joshua Oppenheimer

by Elizabeth R. Morrissey, EDGS Program Manager

On November 4, the Tech Ryan auditorium was packed to capacity with students, staff, and faculty from Northwestern as well as members of the Chicagoland community to watch the film, The Act of Killing, and to hear from the director, Joshua Oppenheimer. Delivering the inaugural Equality Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) Rajawali Distinguished Lecture, Oppenheimer spoke about what led him to create his award-winning documentary on the 1965-66 genocide in Indonesia.

In his film, Oppenheimer focuses on death squad leaders, who literally got away with murder, as they reenact their mass murders in a surreal version of their favorite American film genres. The film was shot over seven years and came about through Oppenheimer’s experience of meeting plantation workers that still lived in fear of killers, who were never punished and instead became national heroes.

One of the perpetrators we come to know is Anwar Congo. “Anwar, like all of these perpetrators, has never been forced to admit what he’s done is wrong,” said Oppenheimer during his lecture. In the film we come to realize that the way Anwar and others want their murderous past viewed is based on lies, which make them feel less guilty.

Jeffrey Winters, Professor of Politics and Director of EDGS, introduced Oppenheimer and noted that what happened in Indonesia in 1965 “is probably the most important massacre of the twentieth century that no one’s heard of.” Oppenheimer stressed the film depicts the link between humanity and inhumanity and empathy, even for the killers. According to Oppenheimer, “the moment you treat someone like Anwar as a monster you close down the possibility of understanding how we human beings do this to each other again and again and again.”

The free event, which also included time for a question-and-answer session with the audience and director, was co-sponsored by the following student groups: A&O, Northwestern University Conference on Human Rights, Asian Pacific American Coalition, Inspire Media, the International Student Association, and Northwestern Law Center for International Human Rights. Also, five undergraduate students who were involved in the planning of this event were able to have dinner and engage in conversation with Oppenheimer on the night of the event.

The EDGS Rajawali Distinguished lecture, held once a year, features a major scholar or figure of national or international stature who is involved in research or working in a field that touches on EDGS’s themes.
Buffett Center Grants

For all Buffett Center Research Grants: Applicants’ proposals must contain a concise description of the research, scholarship, or creative activity and an itemized budget (see online application for all requirements). Graduate students and undergraduates must submit a letter of recommendation from a faculty member (sent to Buffett Center, 1902 Sheridan Road or emailed by the recommender to Frances Lowe at f-lowe@northwestern.edu).

Additionally, graduate students must be Affiliates of the Buffett Center (for more information see: www.bcics.northwestern.edu/people/grads).

Award information: The number and distribution of funded projects will be determined by the number of proposals received and the funding requested by applicants. All awards will be made as scholarship awards and will be paid out through the University’s payroll system.

Selection process and notification: Awards will be decided by a committee organized by the Buffett Center. Award notification is expected 4-6 weeks after each deadline.

Questions should be directed to Rita Koryan (r-koryan@northwestern.edu).

Crown Family Middle East Research Travel Awards

The Buffett Center, with generous support from the Crown family, announces a competition for travel awards for research projects in the Middle East by Northwestern faculty, undergraduates, and graduate students. Research proposals for individual and group projects are invited in all disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. Proposals indicating collaboration with institutions and colleagues in the Middle East will be given priority.

Online application form: www.bcics.northwestern.edu/grants/research.html

Deadlines: February 15, 2014; May 1, 2014; and October 14, 2014.

Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Research Grants

The Buffett Center, with generous support from the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program, announces a competition for research grants in modern Turkish studies for Northwestern faculty, undergraduates, and graduate students. Research proposals for individual and group projects are invited in all disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. Applicants may place the proposed work in an interdisciplinary context by explaining its relevance to modern Turkey. Projects may build on the work of existing research or they may be an entirely new initiative, as long as they are on modern Turkey. Proposals indicating collaboration with Turkish institutions and colleagues will be given priority.

Online application form: www.bcics.northwestern.edu/grants/research.html


Buffett Center Graduate Student Dissertation Research Awards

Regular participants in the Buffett Center Graduate Student Colloquium series with strong proposals will receive preference (for more information about the Colloquium see: www.bcics.northwestern.edu/groups/graduatecolloquium).

Graduate Student Dissertation Research Awards provide funding for fieldwork outside the United States for Northwestern doctoral students writing dissertations on comparative and international topics relevant to important contemporary political, economic, and social issues. The maximum award is $2500.

All Northwestern University PhD students at any stage in their dissertation research are eligible to apply. Applications from students conducting exploratory thesis research are particularly encouraged. These awards may not be used for language study programs, expenses in the United States, special equipment such as tape recorders, or fees for
transcription or translation. Awards are normally granted for work during the summer, but exceptions can be made if warranted.

All applicants are expected to concurrently seek research support from other sources. Applicants who have previously received a Graduate Student Dissertation Research Award must also demonstrate that they have applied for funding from a source outside of Northwestern.

Online application form:
www.bcics.northwestern.edu/grants/research.html

Deadlines:
February 15, 2014 (primary deadline) and
October 14, 2014 (a limited number of awards will be reserved for this deadline).

EDGS Grants continued from page 1

Science, Religious Studies, and Sociology.
Jeffrey Winters, EDGS Director, said, “We are excited to support the research of those engaged in the EDGS community and to welcome even more faculty and students from Northwestern with these funding opportunities.”

EDGS supports research related to the program’s core themes:
• Institutional Transformation
• Rule of Law
• Boundaries and Property
• Democracy, Participation, and Equality
• Conflict, Tolerance, and Rights
• Oligarchs and Elites
• Historical Influences and Legacies
• Global, National, and Subnational Dimensions of Development
• Growth and Sustainability

Faculty grants are available at various levels and for various purposes: Faculty Research Grants ($5,000-$25,000); Faculty Small Research Grants (up to $1,000); Book Conference Grants (up to $5,000); Conference or Symposium Grants (up to $25,000); EDGS Speaker Series (up to $5,000). All research should be closely related to core EDGS themes and lead to publications.

Buffett Center Graduate Student Conference Travel Awards

Conference Travel Awards fund Northwestern PhD students working on international and comparative topics relevant to important contemporary political, economic, and/or social issues. The maximum award is $300, and students are limited to one conference travel award per academic year.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Funds are limited, so early application is strongly encouraged. Applicants are typically notified within two weeks of submission.

Questions should be directed to Krzysztof Kozubski (kozubski@northwestern.edu).

Online application form:
www.bcics.northwestern.edu/grants/conference.html

Graduate Student Summer Funding (up to $2,500) will also be awarded. Graduate students’ applications will be submitted first to each department’s director of graduate studies, and the strongest candidates will be forwarded to EDGS. The funding deadline is March 15, 2014 and award notification is expected 2-3 weeks after the deadline.

Award information: More information on the categories of research support and all online applications can be found at www.EDGS.northwestern.edu/research-support. Applicants’ proposals must contain supporting documentation such as a CV, a proposal outlining the significance of the research, conference, or symposium (including a statement of how the proposal engages core EDGS themes), and an itemized budget. Deadline dates vary. Strong proposals from applicants who participate regularly in EDGS programs and events are viewed as especially competitive by the Advisory Board.

The number and distribution of funded projects will be determined by the number of proposals received and the funding requested by the applicants. The EDGS Advisory Board will review all proposals.

For more information, contact Beth Morrissey, Program Manager, at EDGS@northwestern.edu or 847-467-6609.
New Faculty, Visiting Scholars, and Staff

Several new faculty and visiting scholars joining Northwestern specialize in international and comparative issues. We encourage our affiliates to introduce themselves to these new colleagues.

Peng Dapeng, EDGS visiting scholar, works on social movement and political development in the information age, grassroots democracy in China, and comparative cultural studies. He is the author of One-dimensional Countryside: A Research for the Nature of Rural Society in Transformation and co-editor of Grassroots Democracy in Sichuan Province, 1978-2008 and has published numerous article and book chapters. His current and ongoing research focuses on the studies for herdsmen of Tibet area. Before coming to Northwestern, he was an associate Professor at Administration College of Sichuan Province and research fellow at the Center for Chinese Rural Study of The Central China Normal University.

Weijian Li, ISITA visiting scholar, is an associate research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Institute of World Religions, where he earned his PhD in Islamic studies in 2007. His dissertation focused on Islamic jihad movements in nineteenth century West Africa. He is the author of A Historical Study of Islam in West Africa and co-author of A Survey on Chinese-styled Sufi Orders in Linxia of Gansu Province. Li will use his residency to plan, research, and write the first Chinese-language historical monograph on Islam in Africa.

Amanda Logan joined the faculty as assistant professor of anthropology in Fall 2013. She was previously a Mellon postdoctoral fellow in interdisciplinary food studies at Indiana University, and received her PhD in 2012 from the University of Michigan. She is an archaeologist who works primarily in Ghana. Her current research focuses on how everyday life changed as West Africa was drawn into global trade networks over the last millennium, as well as questions of sustainability and resilience to environmental change over the long-term.

Kennedy Opalo, PAS visiting scholar, is an advanced graduate student in political science at Stanford. His research interests include institutional change and development (focusing on legislatures); natural resource management and redistribution; and elections and democratic consolidation in Sub-Saharan Africa. His dissertation titled “The Politics of Institutional Change and Development: The Case of African Legislatures” seeks to explain the historical and contemporary variation in the strength of African legislatures and the role of legislatures in democratic consolidation in Sub-Saharan Africa. Ken’s dissertation includes in-depth case studies of the Kenyan and Zambian legislatures.

Corey Portell joined the Buffett Center’s Global Engagement team as program coordinator. She comes to the Center from Stephens College, a women’s college in Missouri, where she worked in admissions with domestic and international recruitment. She received a BA in international studies, political science, and religious studies from Loyola University Chicago, where she worked in admissions with domestic and international recruitment. She was previously a co-curricular efforts on harm prevention, women’s rights, and social justice issues both in the United States and during her time studying abroad at the University of Ghana.
WINTER 2014 EVENTS CALENDAR

Events are free & open to the public, and take place at the Buffett Center, 1902 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, unless noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Global Engagement Development Series</th>
<th>Keyman Modern Turkish Studies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Global Engagement Human Rights Series</td>
<td>Faculty &amp; Fellows Colloquium</td>
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2014 NUCHR Conference: The Environment & Human Rights
January 16-18 | Evanston campus
for schedule see: nuchr.net

Is Prebendalism now a Global Phenomenon?
Reflections on the Republication of Democracy and Prebendal Politics in Nigeria
Richard Joseph, Political Science
Friday, January 17 at 12pm | Buffett Center

One Book One Northwestern Hunger Banquet
Thursday, January 23 at 6pm | Parkes Hall #122
NU Students only. RSVP required: goo.gl/c6u1zI

“I don’t want chicken, and this money belongs to my children!”: Disease and Power onboard an Egyptian Steamer in 1865
Daniel Stolz, Science in Human Culture
Friday, January 24 at 12pm | Buffett Center

On the Margins of the State: Mapping, Constructing, and Experiencing a Borderscape in Early Republican Elazığ
Zeynep Kezer, Newcastle University and Aga Khan Program Fellow at MIT
Monday, January 27 at 12pm | Hagstrum Room

National Security Journalism:
Asking the Right Questions
Timothy McNulty, Medill
Friday, January 31 at 12pm | Buffett Center

One Book One Northwestern Keynote:
The Last Hunger Season
Roger Thurow, author
Wednesday, February 5 at 4:30pm | Harris 107

The Price of Success: Purist Salafis in the Age of Decolonization
Henri Lauzière, History
Friday, March 7 at 12pm | Buffett Center

It’s a Market World
Marina Henke, Political Science
Friday, February 7 at 12pm | Buffett Center

Development and Human Rights
Peter Uvin, Amherst College
Tuesday, February 11 at 7pm | Harris 108

Syrians’ Stories and the Micro-processes of Revolution and War
Wendy Pearlman, Political Science
Friday, February 14 at 12pm | Buffett Center

Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program (exhibit, film series, lectures, and dance performances)
February 15 - April 1
see: www.latinostudies.northwestern.edu

“Through the Lens of Law”: International Affairs in the Age of Legalization
Ian Hurd, Political Science
Friday, February 21 at 12pm | Buffett Center

Habib Koite & Band Concert
Thursday, February 27 at 7:30pm | Pick-Staiger

An Archaeology of Food Security in West Africa
Amanda Logan, Anthropology
Friday, February 28 at 12pm | Buffett Center

Governance and Development in Africa: New Perspectives from Economics and Political Science
Roger Myerson, Nobel laureate in economics, University of Chicago, Celestin Monga, World Bank, and Richard Joseph, Political Science
Thursday, March 6 at 5pm | 620 Library Pl.

Documentary Screening: Beneath the Blindfold
followed by discussion with director Kathy Berger
Thursday, March 6 at 7pm | Harris 107

The View from Kasımpaşa
Vasif Kortun, director of research & programs, SALT Istanbul
Saturday, March 15 at 2 pm | Block Museum
**Buffett Center Affiliates in the News**

**Deborah Cohen** (History) wrote in the *Atlantic* about the use of war-time photography, and why it failed to capture the horrors of World War I. This was not only because of various attempts to censor photographers on the warfront, but also because of the sheer magnitude of the Great War.

**Jack Doppelt** (Medill) was interviewed by *USA Today* for a piece on Al Jazeera America's popularity among young viewers. He said Al Jazeera's style reflected a more British style of journalism which catered to a sophisticated youth market.

**Douglas Foster** (Medill) was interviewed by PBS NewsHour, WTTW, WBBM Newsradio, and many radio stations about Nelson Mandela's life and legacy, following the South African leader's death. Foster also wrote an opinion for the *Los Angeles Times* arguing that race and class are still intertwined in South Africa, and the work of translating political liberation into material freedom for the young is now the task at hand.

**Elizabeth Shakman Hurd** (Political Science) argued in an interview for Religion News Service that promotion of religious freedom may actually obscure ideal democratic political aims.

**Cynthia Kinnan** (Economics) was interviewed in Journalist's Resource about her work with MIT’s Poverty Action Lab. Their work challenges narratives about the complete success of microfinance.

**Eugene Kontorovich** (Law) was interviewed by NPR’s *All Things Considered* after Russia charged several Greenpeace activists with piracy. He argued that nothing the activists did meets the legal definition of piracy.

**Joel Mokyr** (Economics and History) helped develop the *Atlantic*’s list of the “50 Greatest Breakthroughs Since the Wheel” in the magazine’s November technology issue.
Global Engagement at the Buffett Center

International Service Learning Summit: Building a Community of Practice

By Patrick Eccles, Assistant Director for Global Engagement

Colleges and universities across the country, including Northwestern, are adopting strategic goals for integrating curricular and co-curricular learning, while also internationalizing institutional commitments and programming. As higher education places more focus on co-curricular learning – involving students in hands-on activities through public service, community development, advocacy and social change – the field of “global service learning” (GSL) is exploding with mixed results and through an entirely new and complex service industry of volunteer sending organizations. With growing attention placed on the value of student learning through experiences beyond the classroom, how do we develop meaningful and comprehensive strategies to support such integrative, transformative learning? The Buffett Center’s nationally recognized model, the Global Engagement Studies Institute (GESI), represents one of the most comprehensive pedagogies for multidisciplinary, integrative, engaged learning – shaped by the co-educational efforts of impact-driven partnerships. Our in-country partners facilitate relationships with various grassroots efforts and organizations, involving students in opportunities to collaborate in different approaches to asset-based, participatory development.

As a leader in this field, the Buffett Center hosted 110 attendees at Northwestern from October 23-25, for an International Service Learning Summit. The event was co-sponsored by DukeEngage and the Gephardt Institute for Public Service at Washington University with the goal of building a community of practice in global service learning. Summit participants gathered to examine critical issues facing the field while also creating an agenda for developing and measuring our success as international educators seeking to build capacity in our students and of communities abroad. With a particular focus on the movement for higher standards for global engagement through community-based, experiential or service learning courses and programs, the summit brought together a group of socially

Continued on page IV
The Northwestern University Conference on Human Rights (NUCHR) is the largest undergraduate student-organized and student-attended conference on human rights in the United States. This annual three-day event brings individuals together from around the globe to address a unique aspect of human rights each year. Throughout the year, NUCHR provides programming focused on various human rights issues for the Northwestern community.

The NU Conference on Human Rights 2013-2014 topic is focused on the environment and human rights. In January 2013, our conference topic: Human Rights and Peacekeeping explored the complexities behind local and international peacekeeping. In the past, NUCHR has focused on topics such as the Global Food Crisis, Forced Migration, Humanitarian Aid, and Urban Slums. This year’s conference and programming explore themes of environmental accountability, sustainable growth and development, and the relationship between human rights and the environment. We will also examine how communities are negatively impacted by environmental abuses.

Through our programming, we intend to show that the right to live in a safe environment with access to clean water, air, and land are intertwined with social and economic rights. Although a great deal of human rights education has focused on socioeconomic rights, our goal is to increase the awareness of the fundamental importance of protecting environmental human rights.

This year’s conference will run from January 16-18, 2014, and all speaking events hosted on the Evanston campus will be free and open to the public. The official conference schedule can be found online beginning in early January. Delegates, comprised of undergraduates from around the nation, will participate in various activities and learn from distinguished academics and activists who are actively working in and researching these themes.

Our panels will examine the disproportionate impacts of environmental degradation and take a closer look at environmental refugees, indigenous rights, and environmental racism. Additionally, we will analyze whether human rights can be guaranteed in the face of economic progress, exploring the inherent tension and potential compatibility between economic development and environmental preservation. Finally, we will learn from community initiatives and hold a conversation with leaders of non-profit and activist groups in Chicago and beyond. Our panels will be supplemented by an educational trip to Chicago to visit topic-related sites and non-profit organizations. We are also planning to bring a collaborative and social justice artistic collective to end our conference by addressing the impact of mountaintop removal mining.

NUCHR members get to know each other at the first general meeting, which took place in October. This year, over 50 new members were added to the organization.
On Saturday September 28, 2013, Northwestern students traveled into Chicago to explore nine different tracks relating to social change. As a Northwestern University Conference on Human Rights member and One Book ambassador, I was able to lead and participate in the Refugee Resettlement Track. The Refugee Track not only provided students with an introduction to basic terms (such as the difference between a mutual aid association, forced migration, internally displaced people, and a refugee agency to name a few), but we learned about the history of Bhutanese and Burmese citizens and their status as refugees and reasons for seeking asylum.

A city-owned lot in Albany Park is now home to the Global Garden Refugees Training Farm. A failed condominium development project- an extension of Ronan Park- was transformed into a one-acre organic farm. The garden project began three years ago with funding from the Refugee Agricultural Partnership Project, a program administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement. While the program helps recent refugees to develop sources of income and promote healthy eating, the Global Garden has become a center for cultural collaboration and integration. Farmers yearning for saag, kyang ka bitter melons, and produce unfamiliar to the American market, can comfortably grow and sell their reminders of homeland.

Conversations over sweet bubble tea on Argyle after learning about refugee communities and aid efforts. The hour-long discussion with the director of operations provided us with knowledge of the community’s needs and the evolution of local planning work. The Chinese Mutual Aid Association operates with a far larger scope than its title expresses because its services go far beyond aid and are not limited to Chinese immigrants and refugees.

Saturday’s trip through Chicago communities allowed me to explore new areas of the city, learn about prominent local organizations, and meet new students as well as faculty members. Both organizations offered us occasions to return, volunteer, intern, and learn beyond the daylong visit. The Global Garden and the Chinese Mutual Aid Association are always seeking English teachers and conversation partners! The opportunity to interact and engage through global topics and local efforts should continue to guide NU’s events in the future.
Global Engagement

International Service Learning Summit: Building a Community of Practice

Continued from page I

committed to ongoing, constructive examination of our work, and ready to engage in critical conversations about our impact on student learning and in communities abroad. The summit’s innovative agenda – which included structured, small group discussions – got everyone actively working together, sharing experiences and insights, and producing concrete recommendations that establish critical questions and action steps for the field. Among the outcomes of this collaborative learning process was a highly energized cohort of educators eager for an action-oriented framework to move the field forward around issues of: program structure, pedagogy, evaluation and assessment, diversity and inclusion, ethical standards, and institutional concerns related to aligning and operationalizing these commitments across different resource contexts.

Summit attendees called for greater attention to the knowledge community in GSL, expanding opportunities for sharing and disseminating research in the field and taking stock of the growing network that has been established around best practices, guidelines, values and ethical standards at the program design level. Across issues of diversity and inclusion, attendees highlighted the importance of student and community voice and involvement, calling for more tangible reciprocity and access. Action steps include increased opportunities for host community participation in programs, related conferences and in processes of practical implementation and program feedback or evaluation. Research questions include the need to better understand the development of international service learning economies in different settings and what this implies in terms of program/partnership selection and termination. These actions and questions will continue to be evaluated through new and established networks, requiring increased communication, collaboration and coordination. We look forward to revisiting them at the next conference in March 2015, hosted by Duke University.

Winter Quarter Programming

Documentary Screening: Beneath the Blindfold
March 6 at 7pm in Harris Hall 107, 1881 Sheridan Road

In a time when fictionalized accounts dominate the public’s understanding of torture, Beneath the Blindfold reveals the reality of life after torture. Four torture survivors from around the globe face the psychological and physical fallout from their experience, while going through the daunting steps of building new lives, careers, and relationships.

“Beneath the Blindfold is a beautiful film with genuine sensitivity and glow. You witness a triumph of our common humanity as people overcome the long lasting effects of torture and reclaim their dignity. Not to be missed.” — Jerome McDonnell, Host of Worldview, WBEZ 91.5 FM, Chicago Public Radio

Beneath the Blindfold takes a look at consequences of torture through the eyes of survivors while celebrating their ability to regain agency and hope. With Beneath the Blindfold, filmmakers Ines Sommer and Kathy Berger set out to counter a ‘blind spot’ in our national discussion about torture by focusing on survivors’ stories, insights and struggles.

Join us, the filmmakers, and others for a screening, discussion, and deeper understanding of torture and its effects on survivors through first-hand perspectives.

Sign up for the Global Engagement listserv to receive reminders and announcements of these and other forthcoming events: http://tinyurl.com/cge-listserv