

Center for Global Education

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Global News and Notes

Fall 2014

From Education to Action

By Katelyn Stermer

Katelyn studied with CGE in Southern Africa in 2012. She graduated from Valparaiso University in 2014 and is currently studying towards a Masters of Public Health from the University of Illinois-Chicago.

In the fall of 2012, I had the opportunity to take part in the Center for Global Education's semester program in Windhoek, Namibia. I selected it because I was particularly interested in a non-profit internship experience.

Through the internship selection process, I was paired with AIDS Care Trust, an organization that provides support to individuals affected by HIV/AIDS. I grew close with a coworker, an Ovambo woman in her early thirties. She and I would go to the market and enjoy lunch breaks together. I became her shadow as she counseled clients and advised them on routes of care and support. I admired her empathy for people and loved her bubbly demeanor. I never once realized that the woman I associated with such strength and beauty had been through such trauma. Not once would I have guessed that she was HIV-positive or that she was sterilized and could no longer have children, both of which she shared with me on our last day together.

Returning home just weeks after learning this information was difficult. I had so many questions I wanted to ask her. I kept thinking that, if I had known, maybe there were things I would have done differently in our friendship. I struggled to understand how these



injustices could happen to people doing such important work. It made me angry, an emotion for which I had no outlet for quite some time.

In January 2014, I was presented with an outlet for that anger—the opportunity to join a team of women biking 4,000 miles across the United States to raise funds for Partners in Health. The purpose of the Ride Against AIDS is to reignite conversations about HIV/AIDS in communities across the United States. Our goal was to raise \$100,000 for programs supporting HIV-positive women and children in Rwanda. I knew that this was an activity through which I could channel anger into positive action by riding in solidarity with my Namibian coworker.

In the weeks leading up to the ride, I

felt like I was meeting some of the same challenges she had faced. I was often told that I would not be able to complete the ride and that I should just give up now instead of investing so much time and energy. These comments only fueled my fire, especially as I thought about moments in my friend's life when others told her that her HIV diagnosis defined her future.

When I arrived in California to start the ride, I became fast friends with Rachel Picard from Fordham University. She mentioned she would be studying abroad in Mexico during the fall semester. As a peer study abroad advisor at Valparaiso University, I had worked with departing and returning students and greatly enjoyed the anticipation of those departing, and the thirst for

(Continues inside)

From Education to Action (continued)

storytelling of those who were readjusting. However, when she told me she would be going on a CGE program, I was beyond thrilled because I knew she would have a high impact experience.

We both agreed that CGE programs have a way of attracting students with a desire for social justice. Rachel and I spent many hours on our bikes mentally packing her suitcase and planning for her departure. We began the journey on June 19, 2014 and successfully completed the Ride Against Aids on August 21, 2014.

I am a now a graduate student in public health and I can confidently say that studying abroad was the most formative experience of my life. I would never have signed up for a summer long cross-country bike ride had I not successfully faced the challenges of adapting to new environments and cultures in Southern Africa. Studying abroad reshaped my perception of possibilities. I am now a global citizen tasked with turning knowledge into action.



Katelyn Stermer and Rachel Picard with the AIDS Ride team in Provo, UT.

Staff News

Eric Canny joined Augsburg College as the Dean of Global Education in September 2014. Prior to joining Augsburg, Eric was executive director of International Learning at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, where he developed a comprehensive vision for global learning, significantly expanded international opportunities for students and faculty, and helped integrate global education into the curriculum. Prior to that, he held international leadership positions at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, as well as New York University in Lower Manhattan, and Florence, Italy. He received his bachelor's in fine arts and master's in education from New York University. He is completing his doctorate in global executive leadership, focusing on higher education, from USC's Rossier School of Education.

The CGE-Minneapolis office also welcomed **Lucy Hardaker**, outreach and enrollment specialist, in August 2014. Lucy is finishing up her master of arts in organizational leadership and policy development in higher education from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and she holds a bachelor of business administration from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Prior to joining CGE, she worked with many international students as a host family coordinator and short-term program coordinator.



Highlights

Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE) Pre-Conference Workshop Hosted by Augsburg

The Sabo Center for Citizenship and Learning and CGE collaborated to host a pre-conference workshop for the CIEE Annual Conference in Minneapolis. The session, "Intercultural Accommodation, Integration, or Assimilation? An Encounter and Exchange with Minneapolis' East African Immigrant Community," included a daylong immersion on the University of Minnesota's West Bank and at Augsburg. Mary Laurel True, director of community engagement, led the workshop with the assistance of David Hamilton and Regina McGoff, both from CGE. Twenty people participated in the day from institutions such as American University, Stanford University, the University of California-Davis, and Southern Methodist University.

CGE Wins National Award for Social Work Program in Mexico

NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) has honored CGE with the 2014 Award for Best Practices in International Education. The Best Practices in International Education Award recognizes domestic and international colleagues and institutions for exceptional work related to international higher education.

CGE won the International Exchange Award specifically for its exceptional work on its **Social Work in a Latin American Context** program, which promotes global competency and cultural exchange via campus sponsored travel and hosted family initiatives. The mission of the program is to develop cross-culturally competent, ethical social work professionals with a global perspective by providing a semester of transformative, experiential learning focused on social and economic justice.

The Social Work in a Latin American Context program was jointly created in 2003 by a collaboration of Council on Social Work Education-accredited social work programs. Consortium members include: Augsburg College, Bemidji State University, Bethel University, St. Catherine University/University of St. Thomas, Metropolitan State University, St. Cloud State University, St. Olaf College, University of Sioux Falls, and Winona State University.

CGE Pilots Connections between Site Resources to Classrooms

CGE worked with Augsburg College and Boston College to connect rich academic content from our international sites to classrooms. For example, a business professor in Mexico developed a unit comparing Mexican consumer issues with those found in the U.S. Similarly, Mark Lester, co-director for CGE-Central America, developed a unit on marketing issues specific to the coffee commodity sector. Both units were utilized in classrooms at Augsburg College's Minneapolis campus. In another example, Augsburg College political science students prepared questions about Central American

revolutions for CGE staff in the region; CGE staff incorporated responses to those questions into a customized recorded lecture.

CGE was asked by a Boston College social work professor to develop Skype interviews with local resource people. CGE staff worked with each resource person on a 20-minute presentation that addressed student questions.

These pilot virtual projects infused U.S.-based courses with direct international perspectives. If you are interested in collaborating with CGE on similar projects and options, please contact Regina McGoff at mcgoff@augsborg.edu.

International Travel Seminars

CGE coordinated 42 travel seminars for 618 participants between June 1, 2013 and May 31, 2014. Below is a list of institutions served by CGE. The total number of travel seminars from each institution appears in parentheses.

Augsburg College (9)	Loyola Academy
Boston College (6)	Murray Institute
Brophy College Preparatory	Ohio State University (2)
Butler University	Oregon University System
Carleton College	Pacific Lutheran University
Colorado Mountain College (2)	Portland State University
Fordham University (2)	Regis University
Gustavus Adolphus College	St. Catherine University
Ignatian Colleagues Program (2)	St. Joseph's University (2)
Institute for Clergy Excellence	University of Montana
John Carroll University	Westminster College (3)

Academic Programs Abroad

CGE offered the following seven undergraduate semester abroad programs during the 2013-2014 academic year:

- Crossing Borders: Gender and Social Change in Mesoamerica (fall, Mexico)
- History, Culture and Politics in Cuba (fall and spring, Cuba)
- Migration and Globalization: Engaging our Communities (spring, Mexico)
- Nation Building, Globalization and Decolonizing the Mind (fall and spring, Namibia)
- Social Change in Central America: Exploring Peace, Justice and Community Engagement (fall and spring, Central America)
- Social Work in a Latin American Context (spring, Mexico)

CGE also coordinated two six-week Summer Academic Programs in Mexico.

Seventy-five students participated in CGE's academic programs this year. Along with Augsburg College, 25 other colleges and universities were represented. The number of students from each institution is indicated in parentheses:

American University (1)
 Audit (not enrolled) (1)
 Augsburg College (23)
 Beloit College (1)
 Bowdoin College (1)
 Carleton College (2)
 Clark University (6)
 College of Wooster (1)
 Colorado College (1)
 Connecticut College (1)
 Denison University (5)
 Drake University (1)
 Elon University (2)
 Fordham University (1)

Gustavus Adolphus College (1)
 Macalester College (2)
 Oberlin College (5)
 Pacific Lutheran University (1)
 Point Loma Nazarene College (1)
 Providence College (1)
 Siena College (1)
 St. Olaf College (5)
 Syracuse University (1)
 Trinity University (1)
 Valparaiso University (7)
 Wabash College (1)
 Winona State University (1)

Fundraising and Scholarships

Donations to the following CGE funds were received in fiscal year 2013-2014:

- General Fund: \$2,863
- Founder's Fund for Program Development: \$1,438
- Mary Witt Scholarship Fund: \$2,528
- Students of Color Scholarship Fund: \$7,500
- Religious Studies Scholarship Fund: \$7,500

TOTAL: \$21,829

From the Mary Witt Fund and Students of Color Scholarship Funds, CGE provided \$7,000 in financial assistance to short-term travel seminar groups from Augsburg College and Colorado Mountain College. Students attending summer and semester programs via Auggie Grants, need-based scholarships, and diversity scholarships were awarded \$19,750.

Professional Involvement

Suyen Barahona Cuan, program coordinator and instructor, CGE-Central America

- Developed and coordinated the NicaMujeres social entrepreneurs program. This is a social entrepreneurship training and gender empowerment program aimed at assisting low-income women in generating start-up companies, expanding their managerial skills, and increasing their access to professional and social networks. Ongoing.

David Hamilton, director, International Travel Seminars

- Certified as Qualified Administrator for Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). June 2014.
- Co-Facilitator, one-day cultural immersion in the Minneapolis West Bank Somali Community for attendees of the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) conference. November 2013.

Jessica Haas, coordinator of recruitment and promotions

- Committee Member, Minnesota Study Abroad Returnee Conference Planning Committee. Ongoing.

Mark Lester, Central America regional co-director

- Presentations on the historical and current social and economic context of Nicaragua for the following groups:
 - ♦ Valparaiso University (2)
 - ♦ Long Term Volunteer of the Voluntary Missioners Program
 - ♦ Roads Scholar
 - ♦ Rotary Club of Bakersfield, Calif.
 - ♦ El Porvenir Water Project (2)
 - ♦ Board of Directors of PRONICA
 - ♦ Washburn University (2)



Mark Lester, continued...

- ◆ St. Paul United Methodist Church of Lenexa, Kan.
- ◆ Bucknell University (3)
- ◆ Eckerd College
- ◆ Rutgers University
- ◆ Haverford College
- ◆ St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Portland, Ore.
- ◆ Trinity Episcopal Cathedral of Portland, Ore. (2)
- ◆ Providence Methodist Church, Nashville, Tenn.
- ◆ South Dakota Lutheran Synod Delegation
- ◆ Winthrop University
- ◆ Xavier University
- ◆ Swampscott High School of Swampscott, Mass.
- ◆ University of New Jersey
- ◆ Colorado State University
- ◆ Medical Delegation from South Carolina
- ◆ Grace Community United Methodist Church of Fort Smith, Ark.
- ◆ Maryland Institute College of Art
- ◆ Ascension Lutheran Church of Baltimore, Md.
- ◆ Weston United Methodist Church of Weston, Mass.
- ◆ Lake Oswego United Church of Christ of Portland, Ore.
- Presenter, “Fair Trade Coffee in Nicaragua.” Marketing Management class at Augsburg College. September 2013.
- Presenter, “Enduring Impact of Colonization on Nicaragua.” Introduction to Hispanic Cultures class at Denison University. September 2013.
- Presenter, “Justice Problem Scenarios in Nicaragua.” Global Justice Movements class at Denison University. September 2013.
- Presenter, “Impunity in Recent U.S. History.” Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice. November 2013.
- Through a contract with the Winds of Peace Foundation, Mark facilitated the investment of \$299,017 (including both grants and loans) in 13 different development projects in support of rural women, indigenous peoples, rural cooperatives, and education in Nicaragua. This includes a \$44,000 investment in the Central American University. In addition, Mark oversaw the investment of \$148,980 in the following consultancies, which provide institutional strengthening to local grassroots organizations (partial list):
 - ◆ Analysis, the Unión de Cooperativas Multifuncional Productoras de Café (UCPCO)
 - ◆ Strategic planning, Caja Rural Cooperative
 - ◆ Strategic planning, Mother Earth Foundation
 - ◆ Strategic planning, Forest Rangers Cooperative

Ann Lutterman-Aguilar, site director and instructor, CGE-Mexico

- Guest lecturer, “Complexities and Challenges of Intercultural Communication.” Intercultural Communication class at California Lutheran University. September 2013.
- Co-facilitator, “Academic Coursework: Finding Roots and Sources in the Local Context.” The Forum on Education Abroad Standards of Good Practice Institute: Curriculum, Teaching, and Education Abroad. November 2013.
- Co-facilitator, “Theory in Action Through a Social Work Consortium Program.” The Forum on Education Abroad Standards of Good Practice Institute: Curriculum, Teaching, and Education Abroad. November 2013.
- Co-facilitator, “Essential Components for Integrating Study Abroad into the Curriculum of STEM and Other Disciplinary

Majors.” CIEE Annual Conference. November 2013.

- Co-facilitator, “How Study Abroad Changed My Life: Student Development Pathway.” CIEE Annual Conference. November 2013.
- Participant, Future Leaders Summit at the Diversity Abroad Conference. All expenses paid as part of honor of being named a “Future Leader” in diversity education. April 2014.
- Guest lecturer, “A Brief Exploration of Latin American Queer Liberation Theologies.” Queer Theologies class at California Lutheran University. April 2014.
- Co-facilitator, “Exposure Doesn’t Equal Skill.” International Social Work Conference. June 2014.
- Certified as Qualified Administrator for Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). June 2014.
- Presenter, “Discovering God at Work in this World: How Global Education Can Impact Students’ Vocations.” Convocation of Teaching Theologians. August 2014.

Kathleen McBride, co-site director and instructor, CGE-Central America

- Editor, Fernando Cardenal Memoirs. Ongoing.
- Board Member, Potters for Peace. Ongoing.

Regina McGoff, director, CGE

- Chair, “Theory in Action Through a Social Work Consortium Program.” The Forum on Education Abroad Standards of Good Practice Institute: Curriculum, Teaching and Education Abroad. November 2013.
- Chair, “How Study Abroad Changed My Life: Student Development Pathways.” The Forum on Education Abroad Annual Conference. April 2014.
- Member, 2013 Fulbright Scholar interview committee.
- Reviewer, Global Knowledge Concurrent Sessions and Poster Sessions. American Association of Colleges and Universities Network for Academic Renewal Conference. November 2014.
- Co-chair, Minneapolis-Cuernavaca (Mexico) Sister City Association.

Antonio Ortega, program coordinator and instructor, CGE-Mexico

- Presenter, “Historical Background of the Sexual Diversity Movement in Mexico.” National Meeting of LGBT Activists. August 2014.

Romanus Shivoro, director and instructor, CGE-Southern Africa

- Guest lecturer, “Lifelong Learning.” University of Namibia course. July 2014.
- Discussant, Migrant Labour System Public Lecture, sponsored by the Labor and Research institute. July 2014

Frederick Simasiku, program coordinator and instructor, CGE-Southern Africa

- Member of the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa. Ongoing.