



Support the Walk for Justice!

The Center for Global Education is participating in the Walk for Justice, Sunday, September 18, 2005, in Minneapolis. The Walk for Justice is an annual community fundraising event for grassroots organizations and community groups in Minnesota working for social justice and community building. The Center staff and volunteers will be participating in the Walk for Justice in order to raise money for its scholarship programs. We invite you to participate in the walk or support a walker through your financial contribution. Visit <www.walkforjustice.org> to sign up as a walker or make an online donation to the Center's team.

THIS MIGHT BE YOUR LAST ISSUE OF GLOBAL NEWS AND NOTES!

We are updating our mailing list. Your expiration date is printed above your address on the mailing flap. If your expiration date is 5/31/2005 or earlier, your name will be removed from our mailing list unless we hear from you. Please contact us by e-mail at <gloaled@augsborg.edu> or by phone at 612-330-1159 or 800-299-8889 if you would like to remain on the list.



If you have any questions about the Center for Global Education, please contact us at 1-800-299-8889, <www.centerforglobaleducation.org>, or e-mail <gloaled@augsborg.edu>.

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 2031
Minneapolis, MN

Expiration notice: If the expiration date on your label is 5/31/2005 or earlier, please notify us in order to continue receiving this publication

Listing of upcoming travel opportunities inside:

Address Service Requested

Augsburg College
2211 Riverside Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55454



Global News and Notes

SUMMER 2005

WORKING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE IN DIFFERENT WAYS

A critical part of the Center's pedagogy is the action step after participating in a program and reflecting on that experience. According to Campus Compact, there are many ways in which participants can engage in social change: charitable volunteerism (direct service), community/economic development, voting/formal political activities, confrontational strategies (rallies, public disobedience), grassroots political activity/public policy work, and community building (activities that build trusting relationships around issues of common concern). The University of Minnesota Career and Community Learning Center expanded on that list to also include socially responsible daily behavior and advocacy through community education. In this issue of *Global News and Notes*, we feature a number of different ways that participants have chosen to follow up on their travel experiences. There are many other examples to cite, but we hope that you may be inspired by these stories of action that take different forms.

DELEGATION FROM NICARAGUA'S UCA MIRAFLOR VISITS MINNESOTA

by Keith Olstad (sponsor of three environmental trips to Nicaragua since 2001)

Participants in the Center for Global Education's March eco-tours to Nicaragua have felt so rewarded and so challenged by their experiences there that over half of them have continued to meet several times a year to work on our connections. Together, participants have written and published articles about their Nicaraguan experience, created and paid for a photo exhibit about sustainable development and coffee production in Nicaragua, paid for part of an eye surgery needed by a child in one of the visited communities, supported development of a Nicaraguan bird field guide, and purchased a digital video camera for use by staff and friends of the Center in Managua.

This past winter, however, the eco-tour alumni decided to invite a delegation of three leaders from the UCA Mirafior, an agricultural cooperative officed in Esteli, to visit Minnesota. Meeting in Nicaragua in January with leaders of the cooperative, three goals were developed for this visit: 1) to educate Minnesotans about the production and marketing of shade-grown, organic, fair trade coffee; 2) to engage in conversation about environmentally sustainable development in Nicaragua and in the north; and 3) to share concerns about wildlife ecology, and especially to observe here in Minnesota many of the species that migrate through Nicaragua in March. Alumni of the Nicaragua eco-tours contributed \$7,000 toward the expenses of this delegation, and organized an ambitious 18-day Minnesota itinerary for the delegates.

Though our Minnesota spring was unseasonably cold and wet, Francisco (Chico) Muñoz, manager of the UCA Mirafior; Isabel Flores, a leader of the UCA's women's cooperatives; and Julio Moreno Ruiz, UCA board president, said they

(continued on page 2)

RETHINKING INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

by Marc Hadley

I traveled to Nicaragua in January 2005 with my daughter and a group of friends from Zion Lutheran Church in Anoka, Minn. The trip was life changing for me in that it brought into focus valuable perspective about the role we play as individuals in the lives of other people in the world. I was able to see first-hand the depth and breadth of the economic struggle that Nicaraguans endure individually and collectively on a daily basis. I came to understand more fully that the self indulgent lifestyle to which we U.S. citizens have become so accustomed is helping to perpetuate a world economic system that has many benefits for the privileged few but tragically carries an enormous cost for many more who are, through no fault of their own, denied access to resources and unable to meet even basic needs.

What I learned from my educational travel experience helped me realize that the way we behave as consumers and investors has a direct and profound impact on the lives of others in our global family. Impoverished nations such as Nicaragua and others around the world are developmentally pinned down by the same economic and trade policies that create our "competitive advantage" and our extraordinarily abundant access to goods and services here in the United States. Our consumer-driven economy, while keeping us working, is also draining the world's natural resources and compromising a fragile global environment while ignoring the needs of our extended world family.

As a certified financial planner® practitioner, I have provided advice and counsel to individuals about their financial and investment management strategies over the past 20-plus years. From my perspective, most U.S. citizens share a value system that includes concern for the health and survival of our planet as well as a belief in the value of human

(continued on page 2)

2211 Riverside Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55454 • 1-800-299-8889
gloaled@augsborg.edu • www.centerforglobaleducation.org



The eco-tour alumni decided to invite a delegation of three leaders from the UCA Mirafior, an agricultural cooperative officed in Esteli, to visit Minnesota.

DELEGATION FROM NICARAGUA'S UCA MIRAFIOR VISITS MINNESOTA

(continued from page 1)



Julio Moreno Ruiz, Francisco (Chico) Muñoz, Isabel Flores of the UCA Mirafior cooperative in Nicaragua enjoy bird watching during an exchange in Minnesota.

thoroughly enjoyed their trip spanning April and May. They made presentations to 12 organizations, and generated about \$2,500 of income for the UCA in honoraria. They participated in several receptions and visited schools, churches, cooperative groceries, conservation organizations, national parks and wildlife refuges, and more. They visited organic dairy farms and organic truck gardens. They went birding in western Minnesota, northern Minnesota, southeastern Minnesota, and northern Wisconsin, and returned to Nicaragua having identified 154 species, some 90 of which were new to them.

(See travel opportunities for information about Keith's next trip.)

RETHINKING INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

(continued from page 1)

What I learned from my educational travel experience helped me realize that the way we behave as consumers and investors has a direct and profound impact on the lives of others in our global family.

life and a compassion for our local and global neighbors who are less fortunate. Yet, in pursuit of our "needs" and desires as consumers and in pursuit of financial "success" as investors, many have compromised or abandoned that value system by our financial choices. Most of us have not spent enough time thinking about and informing ourselves about the business and trade practices of the companies we buy from or invest in and the impact they might have on our physical world and on our global friends and neighbors.

By choosing where to direct our money as consumers and investors we are, in some cases, supporting corporate practices and behaviors that violate our own personal moral and ethical codes. Investing and consuming with a greater sense of social conscience presents a real opportunity for all of us to say "no" to such destructive and economically counterproductive business practices while still continuing to meet our living standards and personal financial goals. By doing so we have the opportunity to live more in line with the moral and ethical codes we have already adopted for ourselves.

My commitment now is first, to change my own behaviors in an effort to become "part of the solution" rather than remaining "part of the problem" and second, to bring global social responsibility more to the forefront in my conversations with clients so that they have an opportunity to become better informed about the role they are currently playing as consumers and investors. Then, they may decide for themselves how they might respond in more positive and proactive ways to the challenges of eliminating world poverty and of becoming better stewards of the world's natural resources that are inherently for the benefit of all people.



Marc Hadley and friends in Nicaragua.



(continued from page 6)

It includes a full-day in León, connecting with Project Minnesota/León and their local initiatives. Participants will visit people who are trying to make a living within the tropical forests, and others who are developing preserves and educational programs for bird and wildlife conservation. This discourse will be balanced with observations of indigenous and migratory bird species and other wildlife in a variety of neo-tropical habitats. An illustrated diary of the 2001 travel seminar is on the Web at: <www.augsburg.edu/global/birdtrip.htm>. Co-sponsored with Project Minnesota/León and the Resource Center of the Americas. Price: \$1,995 (all-inclusive within Nicaragua including boats and an internal flight). NOTE: The cost of this travel seminar does not include international airfare. Application deadline: December 5, 2005.

Are you interested in sponsoring your own trip?

Possible upcoming themes may be:

Mexico—July 2006 elections

Guatemala—1996-2006-10th anniversary of the signing of the Peace Accords

El Salvador or Mexico—GLBT issues

Nicaragua—women's issues

HELPING THE CHRIS HANI SCHOOL IN SOUTH AFRICA

(continued from page 5)

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. Then on October 7, I received an e-mail from Lauren Ringe in Minnesota, a high school senior who went with us. She had been trying to contact someone in South Africa about the Chris Hani School so she could do a fundraiser at her school. I gave her my contact information. Then on the 23rd of the month, I received an e-mail from Molly that said her check would be a bit late because Thrivent was going to match their funds.

Meri, Molly, and I raised and sent \$4,560 to the Chris Hani School. Lauren and her school raised another \$1,500, which totaled \$6,060. That meant we could purchase two containers. But in a letter from Michael in June 2004, he told about an amazing dream. The mayor of Cape Town had agreed to donate land to build a new Chris Hani School. Maureen had completed an application for the land years ago and it was finally approved. The groups that will support this project will be the Lions' Club of Tokai, the Dutch Rotary Club, and the Oprah Winfrey Foundation. The money we raised will now go toward the building of the new school instead of purchasing containers.

I am very grateful that God finally "thumped me in the head" and allowed me to figure out what I was supposed to do when I returned from the trip. He gave me the idea, I shared it, and others who were also inspired jumped right in. Add that to a great contact in South Africa and what a wonderful ride it has been. Meri, Molly, Lauren, and I will still pray for our dream of returning to Langa to see our donations in action.



Members of the Ubuntu delegation to South Africa visit with a representative of the Chris Hani School.

The Center for Global Education offers alternative travel experiences that will expand your horizons, challenge your perceptions, and strengthen your spirit. Join one of our travel seminars listed below, designed for people who want an in-depth learning experience.

Please note:

The price for all international travel seminars includes all meals and lodging, ground transportation, programing, language translation and interpretation, pre- and post-trip resources, honoraria for local resource people, fees for planned activities, and airfare as indicated. If airfare is included, other departure cities may be available and the price from those cities may vary.

For more information on any of the following programs, or to be kept up to date on additional programs being scheduled, contact the Center at 1-800-299-8889 or <gloaled@augsborg.edu>.

Namibia and South Africa

Racism and Resistance: Comparative Struggles for the Jewish and South African People

November 6-20, 2005

Racial discrimination, religious intolerance, and ideological conflict have resulted in untold suffering around the world. Only recently has South Africa emerged from the injustices of apartheid. Similar to apartheid, Nazism was driven by a racist ideology obsessed with a belief in the purity of a superior Aryan race. This seminar will explore racism and resistance during South Africa's liberation struggles, compare ideologies of the Nazi and apartheid regimes, trace the role of the Jewish community, and explore current social and political initiatives within South Africa and the Jewish community. Price: approximately \$3,600. This price includes airfare from Atlanta with reasonable add-on fares from most major U.S. cities. Final cost will be determined when flight reservations are completed in mid-August. Application deadline is August 5, 2005.

Guatemala

The Maya World: Culture, Society, and History in Guatemala

January 4-18, 2006

We welcome you to join us this January to experience the culture, society, and history of the Mayan indigenous peoples of Guatemala. This seminar will immerse you in the daily lives of Mayan individuals, and introduce you to a world that existed long before the Spanish conquest. During the seminar, you will learn about Mayan worldviews, mythologies, and spiritualities, as well as Mayan conceptions of an afterlife. In addition to visiting archaeological sites such as Tikal, the seminar will educate participants about contemporary efforts to promote indigenous rights and secure a life of dignity for Mayan peoples. As part of this experience, participants will learn about the challenges posed to effective communication across cultural boundaries in the Guatemalan context. Sponsored by Dana College. Price: \$1,910. NOTE: The cost of this travel seminar does not include airfare. Application deadline is October 10, 2005.

Nicaragua and El Salvador

Grounds for Hope

February 3-12, 2006

Though coffee is the second most highly traded commodity in the world, most of the people who grow coffee are without access to basic health care, nutrition, and education. Come to listen and learn about some of the social justice issues in Nicaragua and El Salvador, including the coffee trade. Become an advocate for fair trade and social transformation. This travel seminar includes five days in Nicaragua and four days in El Salvador. Sponsored by Faith Lutheran Church (Hutchinson, Minn.), and in cooperation with Lutheran World Relief. Price: \$1,895 including airfare from Minneapolis-St. Paul (other cities available). Application deadline is November 15, 2005.

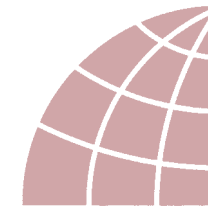
Nicaragua

Our Fragile Relationship: Birds, People, and Tropical Environment

March 11-25, 2006

This travel seminar will visit small communities and wildlife areas in Nicaragua and will emphasize conversations with local community organizers, economic developers, and faith communities with special interest in environmentally sustainable development.

(continued on page 7)



WORKING FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN ALASKA

by Mia Devine (participated in the Gender and Environment semester program in Mexico in 1998)

Probably the main concept that I took from my experience in Mexico is the importance of acting locally and being aware of how your local actions affect the global community. Although I didn't continue to work on the specific issues I'd been exposed to in Latin America, I took the philosophy back with me and applied it to my area of expertise—renewable energy. I completed an independent study project where I met with the college facilities management staff and performed a feasibility study for the use of wind energy on campus. The proposal received funding for further analysis by a professional consultant, and although the college decided not to move forward with the project, the framework for discussion on how to make the campus more sustainable was laid.



Mia Devine installs a meteorological tower to measure the wind resource in an Alaskan community.

After graduating, I moved to Minneapolis and volunteered for a non-profit wind energy advocacy organization, which led to an internship and later to a full-time job. In 2002, I went to the University of Massachusetts Amherst and earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering with a focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency. I am now working at the Alaska Energy Authority, the state's energy office, as a project manager in the Alternative Energy and Energy Efficiency department. We work with rural communities that aren't connected to the central power grid and can only be accessed by plane or barge. These communities rely on diesel fuel for power, which is only delivered during the summer and is stored for use during the winter. In addition

to the environmental risks of transporting, storing, and burning diesel fuel, the financial cost of the fuel is hurting these already economically depressed communities.

(continued on page 4)

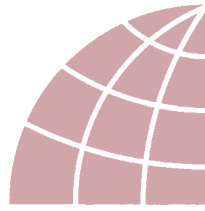
staff changes

Rafael Navar started in Mexico as our new intern in May 2005. Rafael recently completed an intensive six-month program of study and practice with the National School for Organizers at the Labor Community Strategy Center in Los Angeles. He previously worked as an outreach coordinator for the Dolores Mission's Teen Leadership Challenge Program in East Los Angeles which works to combat teen pregnancy and gang involvement. He has a bachelor's degree in history from the University of California at San Diego.

Outgoing intern, **Kaila Knox**, has returned to the United States to attend nursing school. Intern **Hillary Mealman** will return next fall for the academic year.

Soula Pefkaros will join us as the Central America intern for 2005-2006. Soula is a graduate of Boston College and she studied for one semester in Spain. She worked for the Women's Resource Center and volunteered for the Global Justice Project, both at Boston College, during her undergraduate studies. Most recently Soula has worked at Haley House Soup Kitchen in Boston. We are happy to have Soula join the Central America team in August. **Vanessa Salas**, who served as the intern for the past two years, will move into being the study abroad facilitator for the fall semester program in Central America.

After a two-month internship, **Ndapewa Kalenga** will join the Center in Namibia full time in July as the office administrator. Ndapewa grew up in Oranjemund, a small town in the far south of Namibia. She recently finished her diploma in business administration at the Polytechnic of Namibia and is excited to utilize her skills. We look forward to having her as a permanent part of the team, as her hard-working nature and friendly spirit make working with her a pleasure! She replaces Juanita Chawaro, who left the staff.



My participation in a Center for Global Education trip to El Salvador helped me begin to think about how my actions as an American impacted the lives of people abroad.

CREATING FAIR TRADE DEVELOPMENT WITH GUATEMALA

by Ruth Marie de Golia (she participated in a youth trip to El Salvador in 1998)

Traveling to El Salvador with the Center for Global Education changed my life. Prior to the youth trip I had been involved with various social justice efforts locally in Cleveland, but I didn't have a clear understanding of the connection between injustices occurring globally and my actions and responsibilities as a U.S. citizen.

The most memorable part of the trip was our visit to El Mazote, the site of a massacre during El Salvador's civil war. Hundreds of women and children in the village were slaughtered by soldiers trained at the U.S. School of the Americas, and only one woman in the entire village survived. I felt an intense need to apologize to everyone I met on the streets of El Salvador and convince them that Americans "really aren't like that."

When I returned to the U.S. I became increasingly involved with solidarity groups such as the InterReligious Task Force on Central America. I traveled to Washington, D.C., with a group of high school students to lobby our representatives to close the School of the Americas. After spending more time working with groups in Central America such as those that I had met on my Center for Global Education trip, I started a program at my university to train and fund students to work with community-based organizations throughout Latin America, South Asia, and Africa in the areas of grant development, financial and program management, and Web site design. These students were able to provide important services to organizations doing extremely important work abroad, but often doing that work without the technical expertise they needed to be efficient and successful in the long run.

However, by my junior year of college, I realized that I wanted to find a solution to a dual set of barriers I saw preventing successful sustainable development efforts in regions such as Central America: 1) a lack of sustainable funding sources for local development projects, such as the community-based organizations to which our program sent volunteers, and 2) a lack of understanding among Americans of how they could become involved in promoting positive sustainable development abroad.

The idea for Mercado Global was a product of this thought process. I decided, along with a classmate, Benita Singh, to launch a fair trade organization that would help community cooperatives throughout the world develop and market products in the U.S., using "profits" from U.S. sales to fund local development initiatives. In that way, access to global markets benefits the entire community, rather than just a few artisans, and the community is brought together through the cooperative structure to both generate income through tradi-

(continued next page)

WORKING FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN ALASKA

(continued from page 3)

The main part of my job is to work with rural Alaskan villages to install wind-monitoring stations to measure the wind resource in the area. Then I analyze the data that is collected to see if wind energy is technically and economically feasible in the community and to calculate how much diesel fuel could be displaced by wind energy. We will then work with the communities to help secure funding for these projects. Working with local officials, having broad community support, and training the local technicians on how to maintain the new technology is essential to the long-term sustainability of these projects.

I have been lucky to find a job where I can apply the Center's philosophy of critical social analysis and action to my career and everyday life.



Mia Devine visits a wind farm on the Washington/Oregon border.



If I was going to get an opportunity of this nature, it must be meant for me to do something when I return.

CREATING FAIR TRADE DEVELOPMENT WITH GUATEMALA

(continued from page 4)

tional craft production and make and implement important decisions about their community's development strategies. At the same time, through Mercado Global, U.S. consumers had an opportunity to promote positive social change abroad through their everyday consumption decisions.

The launch of Mercado Global has truly brought me full circle. My participation in the Center for Global Education trip to El Salvador helped me

HELPING THE CHRIS HANI SCHOOL IN SOUTH AFRICA

by Teresa Foster

When I was graciously selected to be a participant in the Ubuntu project, I was so excited I really did not know how to act. When my church supported me both spiritually and financially for the trip, I actually began to get a bit nervous. How did I get so lucky as to be able to go on a trip to South Africa and be able to return and participate in the ELCA National Youth Gathering? If I was going to get an opportunity of this nature, it must be meant for me to do something when I return. A great responsibility had just settled in on my shoulders.

The people that composed our group of 16 adults and 20 youth were from all over the United States. Very few were even from the same states. By being spread out across many miles, there wasn't any way we could work together to raise funds for anything ... or could we?

I was so engulfed with a drive to do something that I could not sleep. So, I went online and began to try to find a way to contact the Chris Hani School in Langa. This place touched all of us and we just fell in love with the children. Their classrooms are made from metal shipping containers. In one class, there were 98 second graders with one teacher. They were very crowded. There were 570 students and eight teachers.

In May 2003, a month after we returned, I was lucky enough to link up with Michael Telschow of the Lions Club of Tokai. The Chris Hani School is more than just a project with them—it is like the club is their big brother and keeper. I asked Michael how much it would cost to purchase a shipping container there in Cape Town and have it moved to the site for a classroom. He said that it would cost about three thousand American dollars.

begin to think about how my actions as an American impacted the lives of people abroad. I awoke to the reality of my responsibilities as a citizen to promote social change at a global, rather than just a local, level. Through Mercado Global, I have found a way for myself and others to secure that change through everyday consumption decisions.

The last correspondence I had with Michael was in May 2003 and then I went to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in July in Atlanta. I saw the video from our trip, helped give six presentations to hundreds of youth, and wept with the friends that I had made from the trip.

Michael went to the school and told the principal, Maureen Jacobs, about my questions. I had no plan. I had no idea how I was going to raise three thousand dollars but it seemed like such a small amount to provide an entire room for those kids to learn about things that could help them live a better life.

I shared the e-mail from Michael and Maureen with the Ubuntu folks. I wanted to see if they thought my idea of purchasing a container was a decent idea and to see if anyone had any better ideas. I received e-mails from several who thought the container was a great idea and who wanted to help with the project. Meri DeGarmo in Wisconsin and Molly Beck Dean from Pennsylvania were ones who grabbed the idea and ran with it. They were both adults who went on the trip.

I gave my first presentation October 1 at my church, Joy Lutheran Church. The local newspaper interviewed me and the article came out just before my first presentation. It was a wonderful success. Folks at my church began with the donations. They even set up an account so donations could be collected. Then I went on the road doing a few more presentations.

On October 3, I received e-mails from Meri and Molly. Meri was planning a concert for the spring as a fundraiser and Molly was already sending money in through fundraisers she did through the

(continued on page 7)