The newsletter of the STANFORD OVERSEAS STUDIES PROGRAM

Expanding Opportunities for Students:
THE STANFORD-SIEMENS-LUFTHANSA CONFERENCE ON GLOBALIZATION

Hester Gelber, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and then Faculty Associate Director of Overseas Studies, attended Overseas Studies' first Conference on Globalization and kindly provided this report.

Students from all of OSP's centers convened last June in Berlin for our first-ever conference with strong collaborative support from two firms headquartered in Germany: Siemens (electronics and energy) and Lufthansa Airlines. After three years of highly successful conferences on World War II involving students from the European centers, Overseas Studies was looking for new topics that might bring students from all centers together for a stimulating educational experience.

As luck would have it, at the same time Dr. Edward Krubasik, a member of Siemens' Executive Board and long-standing member of the Stanford Club of Germany, was thinking about ways Siemens might help Overseas Studies. In conversations with OSP's Director Amos Nur, the idea of a student conference on Globalization was born. Siemens would host the conference at its complex in Berlin, Siemensstadt, and in order to bring our students from as far away as Kyoto and Santiago, Lufthansa was approached to join in the project. Mr. Stefan Lauer, member of Lufthansa's Executive Board, became an enthusiastic participant, and Lufthansa generously agreed to fly students and appropriate faculty to Berlin. Professor Stephen Krasner, from Stanford's Political Science Department, signed on to oversee academic planning for the conference and give a keynote address.

On June 9, 2004, students from Berlin, Florence, Kyoto, Moscow, Oxford, Paris, Santiago and Stanford — along with faculty from the centers, representatives from Overseas Studies, and executives and young trainees with Siemens and Lufthansa — met in Siemensstadt. The first evening featured a reception at Stanford’s Berlin Center, with welcomes from Dr. Krubasik, Mr. Lauer, Amos Nur, and Karen Kramer.

A Californian in Vienna

Dana Gioia is Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts as well as an accomplished poet and was a student at Stanford in Austria, Group XI, September, 1970–March, 1971.

I went to Stanford's Vienna campus in my sophomore year for the wrong reason — a girl. A working class kid from Los Angeles, I hadn't felt lonely and out of place during my freshman year, I discovered that my inamorata had signed up for the Vienna campus. The program still had empty places. I had planned to go to Austria as a junior. Why not now? My parents barely inquired about my sudden change of plans. No one in my family had ever attended college. Still overjoyed that I had made it into Stanford, my folks were inclined to ask few questions about a world they found slightly esoteric.

By the time I arrived in Vienna three months later, in the fall of 1970, my romance was indecipherable. Her doing — sigh — not mine.) Bad, lonely, rejected, and nineteen years old, I did what I had to. I fell in love again, head over heels and quite permanently — with the city of Vienna. This is the one great passion of my misspent youth I have never regretted.

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4. “Energy and Development in the Brazilian Amazon” in Rio de Janeiro and Manaus, Brazil
5. “The Making of an Official Language” in Beijing and Shanghai, China
6. “Ecology, Evolution and Natural History of Baja California” in Baja, Los Angeles, Mexico
8. “Public Health and BioMedical Responses to HIV/AIDS in South Africa” in Cape Town, South Africa

Each of these seminars includes 12-15 students, lasts about three weeks, is led by a faculty member, and is offered in early September before the beginning of Autumn Quarter on the home campus.

Endowment
I can proudly report that we have crossed the 30-million-dollar mark in our fundraising effort!

What are the challenges ahead?
As director I see four major challenges facing OSP:
1. Declining value of the dollar which makes our overseas studies much more expensive everywhere except for China. This problem may limit the future growth of OSP.
2. Growing global insecurity.
3. Where should OSP be 5 to 10 years from now?
4. Can we raise an additional 20 million dollars as our share of the Campaign for Undergraduate Education (CUE) by December, 2005?

Lots of work ahead of us!

Stanford in Oxford Celebrates Twenty Years

Stanford’s program in Britain, having opened at Hafarton Manor (Lincolshire) in 1966 and moved to Oliveden House (Buckinghamshire) in 1974, has been housed at 65 High Street in Oxford—Stanford House—for the last twenty years. At a reception on the home campus on October 27, former students and faculty, Overseas Studies’ staff, and guests feted the anniversary and welcomed Geoffrey Tyack, Director in Oxford (and former tutor at Stanford in Britain from 1972), his family, and Pat McAvoy, Student Services Coordinator in Oxford (see interview below).

After introductions by Irene Kennedy, Associate Director of Overseas Studies Programs (OSP), Ramon Sadivdr, Professor of English who taught at Oxford in Spring, 2001, recalled his time there, noting that it is not only students who have a splendid experience; he stressed his pleasure and delight in teaching remarkably “enthusiastic and intensely focused students.” Dr. Tyack commended both faculty and students, noting that the high quality of the program depends on “such good students and such good faculty from such a good University!” Spreading his laudatory remarks, he also thanked the staff at OSP and not least all of the staff at Stanford House.

Conversation with many of the students present confirmed the importance of their time in Oxford to their Stanford education, and Dr. Tyack pointed to himself also as one for whom Stanford in Oxford had provided a profound and life-changing experience!

Students’ Friend in Oxford Set to Retire
Pat McAvoy, Student Services Coordinator with the Stanford Program in Oxford since its opening in 1984 and about to retire after twenty years of superb service, recently visited the home campus to help celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Center at 65 High Street. Abroad took advantage of her visit to have a short conversation that was animated, yet infused with a quiet openness that has endeared her to legions of Stanford students.

Q. We know your title, but please tell us a little about what you do at the Stanford Program in Oxford.

A. I’m also the receptionist and the Administrator’s right-hand woman, but I’m there primarily for the students, for anything from helping them find the Post Office to having long talks about their feelings and impressions. It’s just amazingly revitalizing when new students arrive, and I love meeting them.

Q. You have seen many students come to 65 High Street over the years. Would you say that the average Stanford student has changed in any noticeable way?

A. Gradually the number of men has decreased somewhat, and the number of women has increased. I believe women today are more independent than we have been in the past; they feel they can have a career rather than spending their time washing socks. They’re much more focused, and they’re able to do more. Speaking generally, all the students have become somewhat more serious, but not too much so. I love getting to know students well enough so we can have fun together and tease each other; that’s what makes my work so enjoyable.

Q. What would you say is the most important thing students carry away with them from their time in Oxford?

A. Because of the unique characteristics of Stanford’s program in Oxford, they have learned a great deal in a short time, and they generally improve their writing remarkably because of the many papers they produce and discuss with their tutors. Using their native language and pursuing their individual tutorials aids this process, and I think it’s a very important part of their education at Stanford.

Q. If you had one piece of advice you’d pass on to future students, what would it be?

A. By all means try to get to know the Oxford students, those in the colleges where they affiliate, and resist limiting themselves socially to fellow Stanford students. It’s those friendships outside Stanford House that make the difference.

Q. Anything more?

A. A big thank you to Mrs. Helen Biling whose generous support of local field trips and special events add enormously to the program in substance. I’ve seen more of England and, more importantly, learned more about it, working for Stanford, than I had ever seen or known before.

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It is the medical school's mission to accommodate the universe for its patients and practitioners. This is the case for India's many different systems of healing, which derive their medicinal practices from greater cosmological principles. Ayurvedic medicine has strong ties to a certain Hindu philosophical tradition, and Unani Tib continues the humoral medicine of Ancient Greece under the inspiration of Islam. Western biomedical science is no exception in this regard. If a CT scan shows how a problem developed, a split medium or astrologer can reveal the reason why it developed for a particular person, place, and time. In India, physical and spiritual well-being are usually inseparable.

Such is the focus of Religion and Healing in Northern India, a three-week seminar in which students learn about India's different medical and spiritual traditions and try to understand the relationships between them. The course takes place in the Northern hill station of Mussoorie/Landour in the Garhwal foothills of the Himalayas. This area is home to a variety of different communities: Janapuri's, Nepalis, Garhwals, Tibetans, and the many to-do Punnjabi's, Gujrati's, and Bangali's from the plains seeking cooler climates for honeymooners and family vacations.

So it is an cosmic scene made as the matter by Mussoorie's reputation for tolerance between people of different beliefs and backgrounds. It is the ideal setting for a summer seminar in India.

The course is organized as an ethnographic field school in which students learn the theories and methods for systematically investigating other cultures. While the students do background reading during the first week in pre-field orientation, India itself is the primary textbook. The students learn how to "read" the landscape through on-the-ground field methods such as mapping, interviewing, and participant observation. Students learn how to write and code ethnographic fieldnotes, for which they receive written and oral feedback at least twice during the course. Teaching is very personalized, with a 1:3 instructor-to-student ratio. In addition to the anthropologist and his graduate teaching assistant, there are three Indian nationals with field research experience who serve as translators and local cultural resources for each student research team.

The student research teams design a preliminary field project that tackles an important question related to some aspect of religion, health, and/or healing practices.

In the last two years, students have investigated the practice of meditation in religious contexts: in public and private spaces, in the practice of spiritual guidance, and in personal settings.

Ronald Barnett is Assistant Professor of Anthropological Sciences and taught his Seminar on "Religion and Healing in Northern India" this last September.

Overseas Studies and Lasting Connections

Dr. Giuseppe Mammano was Director of Administration at Stanford in Italy when it opened in 1960 and served until 1992, also pursuing a productive scholarly career and teaching. He still – as his report below amply illustrates – delights in meeting former students, and Abroad salutes his long-time service.

My first visit to Saint Petersburg (then Leningrad) was in 1964 with a group of my students from Stanford in Italy. Recently on a return visit, after having checked in at the hotel, a massive communist-era building, I decided to pay my first visit to the Hermitage, the great museum, one of the largest and richest in the world, located in the Winter Palace, the residence of the former Czars. I was about to approach the ticket office when I heard, "Doctor Mammano, are you doing your rounds?" It was Karen F., a former student at Stanford in Italy in 1960. Karen had become a freelance writer in Russian Art, spoke fluent Russian and had spent quite a bit of time in Saint Petersburg. She provided me with a free entry card to the Hermitage and introduced me to a friend of hers, Irene, who the following day guided me on a very interesting visit to a palace (under restoration) which had belonged to an arzhekin. I was extremely pleased with this encounter but not very surprised. I have frequently found former students visiting or working in Europe and elsewhere. I had run into Eve (Florence '73) in Gstaad (Switzerland), Charles (72) in London, where he was a consultant to an international oil firm, and Christine in Rome where she was working at the American Embassy. The number of former Stanford in Italy students who make a career for themselves abroad is quite high. Of course, many have avenues of personal fortune as well, but especially the generation which attended overseas campuses in the seventies and eighties developed cosmopolitan spirits and tastes.

One day, looking over an ancient Persian carpet, I commented on its beauty. "And that, Doctor Mammano," one of the students with whom I was chatting, "is the few things that remain of the original." Karen and I had a fascinating conversation which developed unexpectedly a few years ago. In the early nineties at the home campus, where I was visiting friends, a group of former students invited me to a weekend reunion. Someone then suggested that the next reunion of 1960 students be held in Florence. I thought this was one of those ideas which after a while fade away, but a couple of months later, back in Florence, I received a letter from the students, which had found accommodations for a group (the number was still indefinite) of former students for the following September. I did, and I marked this the beginning of an annual tradition.

Every mid-August, for the last ten years, a group of 30 to 50 people, former students with their families and friends, has returned to Florence to spend a week. One of the main attractions is the proximity to the Villa San Pietro, the Stanford in Italy headquarters from 1960 to 1973, where several reunions had spent two quarters. These alumni and friends spend the week in Florence sightseeing and hearing a couple of lectures to refresh the memories of the participants and to bring them up to date on current events. Only the evening dinners are spent together; the rest of the day everybody is free to wander around town, visit favorite

Overseas Studies has conducted a "Return to Florence" week since 1973, and every year it has been a great success. Many of our alumni have organized a "Return to Tuscany" program, twelve days of wandering around the most beautiful parts of Tuscany. For the last ten years, side by side with the regular Stanford in Italy Program, we have conducted the Return to Florence and Tuscany Programs, in which several hundred former students (and their families) have participated. These are symbolic links between different generations of people with a common bond. Thanks to these programs, I have renewed my friendship with former students, collecting hundreds of personal cards and a number of invitations.

When I travel, which I do quite often, I have connections and potential hospitality in a lot of other places besides California. In fact, my next trip will be to Brazil, where John, one of my former students (Florence '67) is the U.S. ambassador. For me, as well as for all these students, Overseas Studies has held spectacularly true to its promise to expand horizons and increase mutual understanding internationally.

Garthwal. There are presentations by doctors of Ayurvedic and Unani medicine, an astrologer, and a spit medium dispenses advice while possessed by several full saints. Students compare Ghandian and Western models of development while visiting a school for poor mountain communities, a rehabilitation center for the mentally challenged, and a colony for people with Hansen's Disease (a.k.a. leprosy).

We make several trips to religious sites: Hanuman temple, Tirthan valley, Nanak Jhira, hindu shrines, a mosque, and several shrines. We learn the background on these traditions, the symbolism of the sites, and different ways that people interact with the divine. The highlight of these excursions is a day trip to Rishikesh, Made famous in the West by the Beatles, Rishikesh is an ancient site of Hindu pilgrimage located to the place where the sacred Ganges river descends from the mountains on to the Indian plains. We spend the day visiting temples, wandering around with pilgrims, and frisby off by attending a major Aarti ceremony with hundreds of offerings fire and song to the Mother Ganga as the sun sets on the river. The last day of the course is an opportunity for the class to give back to the community. Students present the results of their projects to an open house attended by some of our guest speakers. We invite our local friends, support- ers, and community leaders to attend a concert of Indian classical music, followed by a catered feast. For the more adventurous, there is also some Bollywood dancing and karaoke later in the evening. There is time enough to sleep on the train back to Delhi.
Edmundo Fuenzalida, Director of Stanford’s Center in Santiago, Chile, is retiring in Autumn, 2005. Ahead joins all at Overseas Studies and his legion of students in wishing him a splendid 2005.

Edmundo Fuenzalida is a Californian in Vienna — teaching at various academic institutions worldwide in sociology.

I was transformed from being a my fellow Latin American classmates changed well established European and American professionals who were embarking constant contact with the FLACSO faculty — upon the adventure of introducing modern American sociology.

I pursued a postgraduate course in sociology degree in Law and Philosophy. Soon after, I moved to Rome and obtained a doctoral upon the spring of 1990, I have transformed my previous visit to Austria to a social experiment, I wandered the dark streets individuals I had learned from: Rainer Maria Rilke, Franz Kafka, and Hungary.”

A neutral country caught between of history. A social experiment, I wandered the dark streets of Vienna. Both Siemens and Lufthansa have expressed the possibility of ‘reverse globalization.’ I’ll reported, “We got into a heated discussion of the complicated role America plays in the world and the future of the industry that could not ‘globalize.’” Airlines have developed as adjuncts of national pride in so many countries that remain in competition is common. He also reflected on the vulnerability of the industry to global terror, something over which no country has complete control. Finally, Professor Krasner argued that global institutions were not about to replace the institutions of sovereign nations. One student from each then presented the paper on which she or he had spent in preparing for the conference. Small discussion groups followed with students from virtually all centers in each.

Both Siemens and Lufthansa have expressed the possibility of ‘reverse globalization.’ I’ll admitted to the film noir setting of The Third Man. An Angelino abroad for the first time, I had never before experienced the weight of a native land. A neutral country caught between European empires, this was the feeling of war, defeat, in war, of course, was Austria clung to its glorious past with affection, though I hardly understood then what such a history meant.

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