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P R E M I E R E I S S U E

Global Studies *and* Geography

By Jessica Molinari

Global studies and geography represents one of the fastest-growing disciplines at Hofstra. Students are drawn to the department and its vibrant programs because of the diverse subject matter, and opportunities for travel and research. The faculty are extraordinarily committed to helping their students pursue their interests in the discipline, and around the world.

Department chair Grant Saff emphasizes the department's ambitions for its students. Of the social science students who graduated with departmental honors in 2012, 80 percent were global studies or geography majors (or both). The department currently has four students working on undergraduate research, three of whom presented their work at the Colonial Academic Alliance (CAA) Undergraduate Research Conference in April 2013. Last year six students from the department presented at the CAA. Such motivated students put the department's faculty into overdrive with their research and internships! But the faculty enjoy their students' eagerness to perform research and explore the world. The department does all it can to accommodate each student with opportunities for research or an internship.

The beauty of geography and global studies lies in the extremely broad spectrum for research. Current topics range from child labor and neoliberalism (Josh Ettinger) to Jewish immigration from Lithuania (Nathan Shapiro), American exceptionalism in the education system (Kayla Rivara), and media in the Congo (Anna Okoniewski). Many geography and global studies students get immersed in transnational issues by participating in the European Odyssey program (hofstra.edu/odyssey) organized by Professor Linda Longmire, who takes students each year in the spring semester to Europe for an academic bus tour of the continent with course work on the road and at many sites of historical and cultural interest. Students return to Hofstra transformed into global citizens and excited about global research.

The department recognizes excellent students with two awards: the Manya and Max Tenenbaum Endowed Memorial Prize in Economics and the Inaba Scholarship. The Tenenbaum Award goes to the student with the best written work from the departments of Geography and Global Studies or Economics. [For many years Geography and Economics resided in the same department.] For the Tenenbaum Award, faculty from these three areas nominate students and then review their work carefully: Chelsea Whitfield, a global studies student, was awarded the Tenenbaum Award in 2011.



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The Inaba Scholarship is a new award in honor of Geography Professor George Inaba, who taught at Hofstra from 1959 to 1993. Professor Inaba's family created the scholarship in his name because of his love for the school and geography. The family also plans to donate \$1,000 each year to student events for the Department of Global Studies and Geography. Professor Saff praised this dedication to the field and department, and he hopes to keep that tradition going: "One of the big things we do is celebrate our former students and invite them to events." The first recipient of the Inaba Scholarship in 2013 is Catherine Misczuk, who is a double global studies and journalism major. This combination of majors has become increasingly popular as students realize the need to combine their practical investigative skills with a broader awareness of global society.

The department also has ways to keep current students engaged through extracurricular activities such as the Get Global Club and Gamma Theta Upsilon International Honor Society, both

headed by faculty advisor Dr. Kari Jensen. Over the last year the student club, in conjunction with the department, has been hosting very popular diversity dinners that focus on one particular world region and offer local cuisine, music and talks by students from that area. So far they have had dinners spotlighting Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and El Salvador.

The department owes its rapid growth over the past few years to the dedication of its faculty and students. Professor Saff even tried to turn me (Jessica Molinari) into a global studies major by the time I was done with the interview. "You're a junior?" Professor Saff said. "I'm a junior," I responded. "I bet if I looked at your DAR I could make you a global studies major without you doing anything. I bet you have three quarters of the credits already and you don't even know it." Professor Saff's enthusiasm and energetic outreach, shared by the whole department, are the main reason Global Studies and Geography has become such a highly visible department at Hofstra.

For a full list of recent departmental honors theses, see http://www.hofstra.edu/academics/colleges/hclas/geog/geog_honors_dissertations.html

Hofstra University Library Undergraduate Research Award

The annual Hofstra University Library Undergraduate Research Award was established in 1997 by the Library faculty to recognize and reward excellence in research and writing by two graduating seniors.

All papers are nominated by the faculty advisor who supervised the research and are read carefully by a faculty selection committee. Both winning papers are published on the website, and both authors receive an award of \$500.

Past winners have come from the departments of Fine Arts, History, Music, Political Science, Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, Global Studies and Geography, and Psychology.



ETANA JACOBI

Class of 2012

by Carson Olivares

Etana Jacobi's majors in global studies and political science, along with a minor in geography, were a natural fit for her passion for civic engagement: "I took my first global studies class my sophomore year, and the department was amazing and incredibly supportive. So I just really enjoyed it and jumped right in," said Etana. In her junior year she was awarded a Hofstra Provost's Scholarship to spend a year in Holland at the University of Amsterdam, where she fell in love with the city and Dutch culture, and also worked as a research assistant in the Social Psychology Department doing interviews. Upon her return, she began research for her departmental honors thesis, which resulted in her study "iGlobalization:

"I took my first global studies class my sophomore year, and the department was amazing and incredibly supportive."

Kodak, Apple and the Evolution of U.S. Employment from 1960 to 2012," which won the Hofstra University Library Undergraduate Research Award for 2012. "I looked at how the 1970s was a transformational time and viewed it through the lens of Kodak and Apple," she explained. "When you thought of American technology, American companies, then you thought of Kodak. But Kodak was very invested in its surrounding location and community. It was based in Rochester, and many people called Rochester 'Kodak City'. Kodak employed 82,000 workers at the height of its domestic peak in Rochester alone, and they had amazing benefits. Kodak really felt connected to its workers and Eastman, the founder of Kodak, felt that Rochester's success was tied to Kodak's success. So a happy citizen in Rochester meant a happy worker at Kodak. Then I compared that to Apple, where Apple is now considered the technological titan of its time. When we look for innovation we look to Apple, just as we used to look to Kodak. But Apple employs only 40,000 workers throughout the entire country – less than half of what Kodak employed in one city. So what does it mean to be

an American worker if the products you make are not made in America and your employees are not American? On the back of every product you'll see 'Designed in California' but also 'Assembled in China.' What are the implications for an American, as an American worker? I looked at the economic framework of how we got there and what the globalization impact is on our economy, looking at outsourcing and offshoring and what it means to be an American."

Etana's thesis was also awarded departmental High Honors in Global Studies, and she was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Her work as an undergraduate combined quantitative and qualitative research with activism in the community, and that work continues. She is currently The Harry H. Wachtel Leadership Scholar, a Herman Goldman Foundation Democracy Fellow, and assistant director of the Deepening Democracy through Deliberation project, as well as a member of Hofstra's Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) Advisory Board.