

Global Times Monthly

May 2007



Congratulations Class of '07!

On May 11th, we celebrated the commencement of 33 Friends World/Global College students. They joined more than 1,700 other students for the event, which was held beneath an enormous white tent on the Brooklyn Campus athletic field.



Senior Recognition, held the following day, offered a much more intimate opportunity for students to show family and friends their many experiences and accomplishments during their time at Global College. During this day-long event each student was given time to present what they had learned and to share their plans for the future. We wish all our graduates the best of luck in whatever path their lives may take them!

Global College Office Makeover



Global College's main administrative office in New York City has received a full-scale makeover this past month! Our very own Meredith Fisher spent days on the lovely mural, pictured above, depicting our new logo. As pictured below, a photo wall has been constructed to showcase some of the amazing images shot by our students while studying at centers both here and overseas. Many photographs were received to be considered for inclusion in the photo wall, and after much consideration and planning, photographs were selected and blown-up to construct the image here. It was quite a puzzle to get all the images to fit together but, after days of hard work, we were handsomely rewarded with this fantastic mural!



Extended Alumni Spotlight

Commencement always leads one to wonder what comes after graduation from Friends World/Global College. This month we are spotlighting two alums who have gone in very different directions with the education and experience they've gained from their studies. Their stories accentuate the wide range of possibilities that await our graduates!

David Goldman



Q. Why did you decide to attend the Friends World Program? How was the program different than others?

I recall being accepted by at least one SUNY University, but having heard about the Friends World Program from a friend it sounded so much more interesting. I grew up listening to international music and was of mixed heritage myself, so given my boredom with the 'inside the box' education I experienced in high school, I was ready for a new experience. I do recall having a hard time explaining the school to my high school friends. "You travel around the world?" "Make up your own study program?" "What is that, a sleepaway camp?"

Q. What was your area of focus while in the program?

At the North American Center I studied education and photography and worked as an assistant teacher in a BOCES program; in Mexico for five months I studied Spanish, photography and worked with agriculture and livestock on a remote farm. In Japan for a year, I studied classical lute and koto music, Western music theory, Japanese language and photography. In India for two years, I studied classical sitar, vocal, Hindustani language and photography, mostly in Varanasi. So I moved from education to the arts, with language, photography and journal writing as minors. My Japanese journal included a soundtrack of a blend of Japanese street sounds with my lute and koto playing. I did perform various sitar and vocal concerts

at the Indian center and at the Livingston campus.

Q. What are you currently doing (professionally)?

I am a singer/songwriter and producer performing in the NY area, writing material for my second CD, and promoting my songs to film and television via two publishing contracts. In prior occupations, I established music programs in two private schools for emotionally handicapped students and worked as journalist, editor and photographer for a university newsletter in Public and International Affairs. I have also stage managed the Clearwater and Pleasantville music festivals, co-producing the latter. My first CD, "Summer With Juliet" had over one hundred accompanists and vocalists from various ethnic backgrounds--one song featured spoken parts in over twenty languages. Though it took me two years to make, it eventually received airplay on over 140 radio stations and received very favorable reviews, so I'm very happy with it.

Q. How have you been able to apply what you learned at Friends World to what you currently do?

There's no question that my experience with a wide variety of people, cultures and music gave me the ability to perform and write songs in a multiplicity of genres. The instrumental, vocal and improvisational training and discipline were crucial, and my language studies have enabled me to be a kind of cultural ambassador in my field. My photography and writing skills have also played major roles in my professional life. Friends World was decades ahead of its time; such international education seems to be an obvious need nowadays.

Q. Is there any additional information that you would like to share that you think would be beneficial to readers?

I will always feel indebted for the kind of experience I had in the Friends World Program. It was a very rare and great opportunity at the time, despite often living in conditions that might have been considered inferior to the standard college dorm. To be placed in such varied environments at such a young age was truly a privilege and helped create the foundation for further learning, which in my case involved studies in guitar, voice, music theory, other languages and songwriting. I believe the program helped me to more fully understand what would most fulfill me in my life and taught me the skills to make that happen. The Friends World program really helped me feel at home in the world and was the springboard for my life's work.

Links of Interest

Website: <http://www.davidgoldman.com>

MySpace:
<http://www.myspace.com/davidgoldmanworldwavemusic>

Tami Farber



The opportunity to taste, touch, feel and see first hand what the world has to offer has been the method of learning that has provided me a means to thrive. The earth has always been my classroom and it was just a matter of time before I would recognize that and begin my journey with Friends World.

In 1992 a dear friend was getting ready to pack her bags to India to attend Friends World, a program I had never heard of until that moment and had no idea that one day this school would create transformation and growth for this Mt. Vernon, New York girl in a way that was unimaginable at the time. My friend's letters from India and Brazil were so inspiring creating a yearning for exploration, searching and understanding which I had not experienced before in traditional educational structures.

I believe we all come to our paths in life in a time and way that we are ready for and in 1995 my path said, "take me to India" and so I left as a transfer student into FWP. My original plan was to attend the South Asian Center for a semester and the moment I landed I knew it would be longer than a few months that I would experience life in this country. Two years later I made my way to East Africa. My studies and work experiences focused on child development and education exploring various educational systems stemming from religious backgrounds and indigenous forms of learning and the impact this has on a child's holistic development. I was the last student to leave the Kenya center which is no longer in existence.

Many will ask what you would do with such an education. It's great you got to see the world but what did you really learn that will help you in the work force and prepare for your future? I can spend hours on end sharing all the reasons why a Friends World Education prepares you for life in ways that no other form of schooling does and provides opportunities for success but I will let my journey after Friends World speak for itself. To anyone who is questioning this program or parents have doubt... share with them the story of Tami Farber, a FWP alum.....

After graduating from FWP and taking a year to work and explore options for next steps I decided to pursue a master's degree, which I felt would afford me greater opportunities down the road professionally.

I chose Columbia School of Social Work (CUSSW) in NYC for the multidisciplinary opportunities I thought it would provide to build on and strengthen my work experiences and learning I had accomplished before attending CUSSW. With a vision of linking together my aspirations of working in the fields of international development with a focus on children and youth, community organizing, program development and administration CUSSW seemed to provide the platform through its program offerings complimenting my experiences with FW. It was evident that my experience with FWP and my international experiences made me one of the strongest candidates to be accepted into the program that year.

With a major in Administration and a minor in international social welfare I was able to secure an internship with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). It is a highly competitive field placement for CUSSW students and there are specific requirements such as a year or more of international experience in a developing country as well as knowledge of a second language which was all made possible through FWP. I graduated Columbia receiving the National Association of Social Worker's Award for outstanding academic achievement and leadership, which was a result of my effort and commitment to my path that FW laid the foundation for. In addition, last year I was asked by the Dean of CUSSW to sit on the Advisory Board for the school becoming the youngest board member to date.

During my 4 ½ years with UNICEF I worked in countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, Jamaica, Switzerland, Mexico and Jamaica as a child development specialist. In addition I worked with organizations such as Save The Children US and The World Bank.

After 4 1/2 years with UNICEF I decided to shift directions of the work I was embarking on by creating social change right here in my home of NYC. In my current position as the Director of a school based youth development program for the YMCA of Greater NY, I continue to create opportunities to bring together my passions in creating programs and services that support the growth and development of children and youth and raising global citizens. As part of a large initiative I have been a part of creating called "Global Citizens", I have had the blessed fortune of taking the youth in which I work with to countries such as Ecuador and Chile and am looking to expand our program to other regions of the world where young people of NYC have an opportunity for cultural immersion and service learning. Although my role today looks different than it did a few years ago, I continue on this journey that the Friends World Program has helped to create by empowering young people to look at the choices they make and not only how that may effect them on an individual level, family and community level but on a global level. So my vision and journey for social change continues and that all started with Friends World!

Where in the World is CRC?

CRC stands for Comparative Religion and Culture Program, one of the junior year options with Global College. Here is the latest news that we have received from our travelers!

Students visit Taiwanese Buddhist Monasteries

April 10th, 2007

On April 6, the Spring 2007 CRC group began a week-long field trip around the island of Taiwan. Their itinerary takes them to each of the four major Taiwanese Buddhist movements or “Mountains” (*shan* in Mandarin), as they are named, plus a vajrayana (Northern Buddhist) center.



Pictured above are the leaders of the four Mountains: Master Wei Chueh of Zhongtai Shan, Master Hsing Yun of Foguang Shan, Master Cheng Yen of Tzu chi/Ciji, and Master Sheng Yen of Fagu Shan.

Students experienced chanting and meditation with the nuns and monks, stayed overnight at the monasteries, and toured different service activities, ranging from television stations to universities to recycling centers.

Introducing CRC 07-08 Staff

We are delighted to announce the appointment of both the Associate Director and Program Administrator for the 2007-2008 CRC year. They are Kerry Mitchell and Megan Trulove White.

These two folks will travel with the students, providing continuity throughout the year as they travel around the world. Kerry will work closely with students as their teacher and academic advisor. Megan will handle day-to-day logistics and help keep things running smoothly.

We have asked them to introduce themselves through our newsletter, and warmly welcome them both to the staff of Global College!

Kerry Mitchell

Associate Director



My experience in international education began during my undergraduate years, with a six week summer abroad program in Austria. I never fully recovered. My travels have taken me throughout Europe, and to

Central and South America, Asia and the Near East.

I am an experienced teacher, working with undergraduates since 1997. I have particular skills in social scientific and anthropological approaches to the study of religion.

Currently, I am finishing a Ph.D. dissertation at the University of California, Santa Barbara, on the state production of spirituality in national parks, while teaching in the Department of Religious Studies at the College of Charleston in South Carolina.

Outside of academic life, I enjoy kayaking, yoga, and French and German poetry.

Megan Trulove White

Program Administrator



As a student in Friends World Program (Global College), I participated in CRC in 1998-1999. I had a fantastic, life-altering year. I spent the subsequent years in Latin America and China.

Since graduating, I have attended two graduate schools: St. John's College (which has a “great books” curriculum) and DePaul University's program in International Studies.

Additionally, I have worked for non-profit and activist organizations, including Voices in the Wilderness. Currently I am getting a lot of satisfaction from Kundalini Yoga, Russian kettlebell workout, and journaling.

Japan Center Newsletter

Maggie Traylor, a Global College student studying in Japan, put together a colorful newsletter for the Japan Center. It covers both the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 semesters and contains essays, reflections, and photos from a wide variety of students. The newsletter can be found at <http://friends-world.org/eastasiacenter/wp-content/uploads/nlsprng07.pdf>. The following is a sample of some of the great work it contains:

Chadō Tea Ceremony

By Sarah Marie Donnelly

Kneeling on the linoleum floor, the old woman moves with grace that defies her years. The iridescent flowers on her purple kimono are vibrant against the pale over-washed walls, and the faint shuffling of fabric is musical on top of the silence. Around her, a middle school cafeteria that is usually nothing more than a dank cave filled with the muted stench of old food is transformed into a sanctuary of bright air and clean light. Too focused to be brainwashed, too calm to be cynical, we are enchanted. The spell that she has cast is that of chadō- the way of the tea.

Japanese tea ceremonies use matcha, a powdered green tea. Although tea had been introduced to Japan several hundred years earlier, this particular type of tea did not make an appearance in Japan until the twelfth century, when it was brought over from China by a monk. Used primarily for religious practices, it began to be adopted by various other groups for its connections to the Zen religion. In that way, chadō evolved into what we recognize today as the tea ceremony.



Costa Rica Summer Program



It is not too late to apply to the Global College four-week summer session in Costa Rica from **June 28 to July 27, 2007**. This program is designed to give students an overview of Costa Rica through peace and reconciliation studies via a combination of classroom seminars, experiential learning, cultural immersion, self-study and Spanish language training. Students live with homestay families to further enrich their cross-cultural understanding.

All students earn 3 credits for **Spanish Language** (beginner, intermediate, advanced) and 3 credits for **Sociology of Conflict**. This sociology course covers the nature of conflict and how people respond to it intrapersonally, interpersonally, socially, and internationally. No previous knowledge of Spanish language is required.

Last summer's field trips and excursions included visits to the DOLE Banana Plantation, Monteverde Cloud Forest & Sky Walk, Boruca Indigenous Community, Guided Boat Tour of Sarapiquí River, and the Arenal Volcano.

If you're interested, please contact Alyssa Stevens as soon as possible at 718.780.4326, or fax your application to 718.780.4325. Alternately, you may print off the application and bring it directly to our office. The application can be found online at: http://www.brooklyn.liu.edu/globalcollege/lac/summer_application07.pdf. We look forward to welcoming you into the program!

Thank you for Reading!

<http://www.brooklyn.liu.edu/globalcollege/>