

STARRING JESSICA MYHRE - A MUST ALUM

Jess Myhre, alum from Fall 1995's Metro Urban Studies Term (MUST) shared reflections on her experience with HECUA.

What do you remember most about your program with HECUA?

The piece of my experience that remains with me has to do with the "cracking open" process. Having spent my entire educational experience in overwhelmingly white Catholic schools, I had not had an opportunity to confront my own privilege. My education had been limited in both scope and perspective until I enrolled in the MUST program. Having the opportunity to examine the systems in place (economic, educational, social welfare systems, etc...) along with examining myself and my role in these systems was an invaluable opportunity.

What intrigued you about the MUST program to begin with?

Honestly, I was simply done with the traditional college environment. I leapt at the opportunity to leave campus and begin determining my own educational path. Until I entered MUST, I wasn't particularly engaged in issues of justice or service work. Aside from a service-learning experience in high school, I hadn't viewed myself as an agent of change in the world.

When the program was complete how did you integrate what you learned on the program with your future interests / career?

It actually took a while before I fully integrated what I had learned and experienced – and found ways to bring this into my professional life. About a year after graduating from school, I worked at HECUA as an admin assistant for a brief time. This position led to work integrating service-learning into college campuses across the state, a return to school to get my Masters in Education. I held the position as Associate Director at the Southside Family Charter School (SFCs). [SFS is a K-8 elementary alternative school providing an academically challenging, socially conscious education to a diverse community of learners since 1972. To learn more about the Southside Family Charter School visit www.southsidefamilyschool.org.]

After a year in which I struggled through some health issues, I now work to support the Minnesota State University Student Association (MSUSA). Established in 1967, MSUSA is an independent, non-profit organization funded and operated by students. MSUSA serves nearly 70,000 students attending Minnesota's seven state universities: Bemidji, Mankato, Metropolitan (St. Paul / Minneapolis), Moorhead, St. Cloud, Southwest (Marshall) and Winona. To learn more about MSUSA visit <http://www.msusa.net>. We do quite a bit of organ-

izing on campuses and lobbying on behalf of students at the state and federal level.

What are you most passionate about these days?

These days I am most passionate about continuing to provide an alternative form of education and making education accessible for all students, exploring the power of religious communities in our political structure, and creating an intentional life of growth. I am proud to have been a student of HECUA and am grateful that the organization continues to educate students as well as faculty and the greater community.

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:
City Arts Students Contribution to Bedlam Theatre and the West Bank / Cedar Riverside Community

University of Minnesota Art History major Kait Sergenian is interning this spring with Bedlam Theatre in the Minneapolis Cedar Riverside neighborhood. She is working with Bedlam as they make the transition to their new location and will play a key role in forging a partnership with the Brian Coyle Community Center. Kait hopes that the work she is doing with the youth at the Coyle Center for the Ten-Minute Play Festival will lead into a production of Bohemian Flats Day in late summer 2007, which will focus on youth immigrant experiences. Kait and the staff at Bedlam believe she is laying the foundation for a long-term relationship between the Coyle Center and Bedlam Theatre.



Kait is building on work done by a Spring 2006 City Arts student, Ilana Lerman, who helped build relationships between Bedlam theatre and the Somali community in the neighborhood. In Spring 2006, Ilana coordinated and co-taught a theatre class with Bedlam staff for high school students attending the Volunteers of America High School, a night school for Somali youth and adults working towards their high school diplomas. Through this and other outreach activities, the Somali community had a voice and a presence in the production of the 2006 musical West Bank Story, a show about the history of the West Bank/ Cedar Riverside neighborhood.

The Cedar Riverside neighborhood where Bedlam is located is the most densely populated area in the midwest and most ethnically diverse neighborhood

in Minnesota. In the 1960's and 70's it was a hotbed for political activism and this legacy can still be seen today. Now, University of Minnesota students rock and roll and co-ops share the neighborhood with Somali businesses and cultural centers.

HECUA looks forward to a continuing partnership between City Arts and the work of the Bedlum Theatre in the Cedar Riverside Neighborhood.

THE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP
ON PHILANTHROPY & HUMAN RIGHTS

HECUA's Graduate Fellowship seeks to advance human rights through the nonprofit sector and provide graduate students' learning experience in the field of philanthropy. This joint venture, funded by the Otto Bremer Foundation, is in its fifth year, and has supported fifteen fellows from a variety of graduate programs and research fields.

Each year students from graduate programs in Minnesota are invited to apply to this unique fellowship. This year, 21 applications were received from nine public and private universities throughout the state. The fellows spend the academic year working on individual research projects related to the Otto Bremer Foundation's funding priorities while learning about the field of philanthropy. Fellows work at the Foundation's St. Paul office, have access to resources and community contacts, attend seminars and conferences related to philanthropy and human rights, and receive a \$13,500 stipend to support their academic research.

The 2006-2007 fellows are researching minority health care providers practicing in minority communities, documenting intercultural communication dynamics, and exploring the effect of media attention on disenfranchised groups.



Photos (from left to right): Karamaz Ibrahim, Sarah C. Walker, and Rachel Hardemann.

The 2007-2008 fellows were selected in December 2006 from University of St. Thomas, University of Minnesota, and the College of St. Catherine, will begin their fellowships in September 2007.

More information about the program and past fellows are available at:

www.hecua.org/grad_level.html

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W W W . H E C U A . O R G

A Look Back On Recent Programs



Photos (left to right): 1.) Adding encouraging words to the "peace wall" in Belfast, Northern Ireland, 2.) Lobbying for arts at the state capital in St. Paul, Minnesota, 3.) Meeting children from El Chota, an Afro-Ecuadorian community outside of Quito, Ecuador.

"HECUA woke me up and gave me hope. I'm an individual passionate about social justice and positive change and HECUA gave me the knowledge and insight to walk out into the world armed and ready for action. I can't even imagine how different the world would be if everyone took this course. I found it to be infinitely rewarding." - Celeste, University of Minnesota (Metro Urban Studies Term 2006)

"My HECUA experience brought me back home to Minneapolis after two years away at college and allowed me to view my home city with new eyes. Through my MUST internship, I began working in the Minneapolis Public Schools (the district I graduated from) with the Beacons Project and became more aware of both the strengths and the disparities that exist in low-income communities in Minneapolis. Today, as the Director of the Minneapolis Beacons Network, I am able to continue to work for change through partnerships with and for young people and their families in Minneapolis." - Jennifer Wright, University of Minnesota (Metro Urban Studies Term 1999)

"Working with the Minneapolis NAACP office for my MUST internship was a wonderful experience. I am currently the Executive Director of Project Reach Youth, a 40-year old human service organization in Brooklyn serving low-income children and families. My experiences from HECUA are often reflected upon with my work here." - John Brothers, University of St. Thomas (Metro Urban Studies Term 1996)



A Bi-Annual Newsletter			newsLINE - Spring 2007		
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NEW Spring 2008 Program: Divided States of Europe

"Divided States of Europe: Globalization and Inequalities in the New Europe" is HECUA's newest international semester-long program. It examines the development of the European Union (EU), including its historical foundations and institutional basis, contemporary democratic and social challenges, and its expansion to include the former communist nation-states of Central and Eastern Europe. Divided States of Europe (DSE) explores the relationship between the EU and globalization, and in particular questions whether the EU adequately addresses the human dimensions of globalization.

Scandinavia and Poland will be used as case studies; Scandinavia because of its long history of democracy, relatively evenly distributed wealth, and unique range of experiences with the European integration project; Poland because of its tumultuous history, recent accession to EU membership, and role as a major supplier of migrant labor within Europe. Scandinavia and Poland provide a dra-



matic illustration of the economic, political, and social inequalities that coexist within today's Europe.

(Photo credit: www.europeetravel.com)

Central questions that frame the program are:

- What are the dominant ideologies underpinning the European project, and how are they influencing the EU's domestic and global agenda?

- What is globalization and how is European integration a response to globalization?

- What are the social consequences of European integration and do they contribute to inequalities between member states, in particular Western and Central / Eastern Europe?

The four courses offered in the DSE program are taken as an integrated whole (as is always the case with a HECUA program) and provide the equivalent of a semester's worth of credit. They are: "Ever Closer Union": The Challenge of European Integration; Included but Excluded? Globalization & Human Rights in Europe; the Internship and Integration Seminar, and an Independent Study Project.

For more information about this program visit www.hecua.org/scand_dse.html or email the Program Director, Timothy Szlachetko at t.szlachetko@iss.uio.no

MESSAGE from DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

With Executive Director Jenny Keyser on a well-deserved month-long sabbatical (during which she’s managed to make visits to the Northern Ireland and Scandinavian sites) I’m delighted to take over her column and comment on the state of HECUA programs - convinced as I am of the high quality of the twelve programs and the excellence of the program faculty. I know this quality through rigorous assessment practices that allow us to monitor and maintain top-quality academic programs.

Although some may exist, I do not know of campuses where every offering of every course is subject to careful external review. Every offering of every HECUA program is assessed by the Academic Programs Committee. This is a group of consortium faculty who give generously of their time and expertise as they analyze the extensive student evaluations, the thoughtful critiques made by faculty visitors to HECUA programs, the reports on student internship sites and projects, and the searching self-evaluations written by on site program faculty themselves, and then make recommendations for even better programs.

I’m happy to describe teaching and learning in HECUA programs, teaching that helps students learn first-hand how the world works, and how they can work in and change the world. Students with a rich range of experience and backgrounds strive to understand dramatic climate and political change in Bangladesh, religious and class conflict in Ireland, destructive racism in the U.S., and environmental degradation and activism in Minnesota. They examine the possibilities for expressing new identities and realities in art, the shifting definitions of what it means to be European in Norway, and the complex relationships among indigenous people, those of European descent, and U.S. interests in Ecuador. HECUA’s carefully honed experiential programs help students build real-world experience and equip themselves with strategies for working to engage in and sustain the world seriously, globally, and effectively.

Sarah Pradt, Director of Programs, HECUA

Board Member Receives Prestigious Award

Mary Wagner, Ph.D., and nine-year HECUA board member, was honored by the College of St. Catherine as the first recipient of the Bonnie Jean Kelly and Joan Kelly Faculty Excellence Award by Senior Vice President Colleen Hegranes at the College’s Opening Welcome Celebration in September 2006. Dr. Wagner is a professor and director of the Master of Library and Information Science Program at the College of St. Catherine, and has been at the school since 1975. Dr. Wagner has been a Fulbright Fellow in Lesotho, Africa, assisted in creating the Informa-



tion Management major and developed the Masters of Library and Information Science Program for the College. In addition, Dr. Wagner has been an instrumental leader in the Urban Library Program, securing more than \$1.25 million to fund career opportunities

for members of diverse communities historically underrepresented in the library workforce in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The Bonnie Jean Kelly and Joan Kelly Faculty Excellence Award will be granted annually to one College of St. Catherine faculty member in recognition of special accomplishments in teaching, curricular development, or related academic achievements, which bring honor, acclaim or recognition to the academic reputation of the College.

Faculty Spotlight: Martha Moscoso

Martha Moscoso, Andean Historian and Sociologist describes for us her passionate philosophy of HECUA teaching...

The time in which I had to live and perform, was a time full of ideals and idealism, encouraged by the winds of different world revolutions, by the fights against meaningless wars, by different proposals made by the hippie generation, by free proposals of art, by the Latin-American “boom” of the literature and music created in this continent by singers like Victor Jara, Violeta Parra, Mercedes Sosa and many others. It was a time to fight against the horrors of dictatorships and to support all the Latin American people forced to leave their countries. All of these experiences had evidently marked my ideals of a different world, a more human world.

At the beginning of my commitment to HECUA, at the end of 1998, I did not know that my experience will be one of the most enriching and fruitful that I had ever had.

Working with students is an innovative, committed, and shared educational experience. Our teaching methodology is not a traditional one. Together with everyone, teachers and students, we are engaged in a learning process to construct knowledge, to learn about a concrete reality, the Ecuadorian reality. This is a mutual learning process in which students and teachers have a roll as apprentices and instructors, each of us with our own knowledge, our own life experiences and with our own abilities and perceptions in search of a common goal. This is one of the most enriching aspects for me and the Ecuadorian team as a whole.

As the situation in Ecuador is always changing, so too is the CILA content. With each program we introduce in new content, new internship possibilities, and new field visits. These constant changes allow us to offer many opportunities for reflection. Ecuador is a country that changes, a country that suffers, that opens itself outside or that falls back searching for its own identity, that open its arms, but that also is fierce and rebellious.

Read more about Martha at www.hecua.org/2.html

Photo Competition Update

This is the second academic year in which HECUA has hosted a photo competition. The goal of this competition is three-fold: to obtain more visual representation of HECUA programs to showcase in our promotional materials, to have new HECUA stationary, and to create an annual calendar featuring the students’ submissions to share with our consortium members.

Photo submissions can be made throughout the summer and fall. All entries will be accepted if postmarked on or before Friday, November 2, 2007.

Help spread the word about HECUA’s annual photo competition. More information, including the 07-08 theme and entry form, can be found on our “What’s New?” section of HECUA’s home page:

www.hecua.org/whatsnew.html



Alumni Thoughts

A Look Down the Barrel of the Global Warming Gun, by Jeff Brubaker, Bangladesh January ‘04

As many who follow global warming know, Bangladesh is one of the countries most vulnerable to the potential meteorological consequences of global warming. There are several good reasons why, which I detail below.

This diary serves to give a detailed profile of Bangladesh and what might happen if some of the events projected by climatologists due to global warming come true. Having spent a month in Bangladesh a few years ago, having experienced the genuine kindness and hospitality of many Bangladeshis, and having several friends there now, global warming’s threat to the country is personal for me.

Three major rivers -- the Ganges (known locally as the Padma), the Jamuna, and the Meghna -- course through Bangladesh before emptying into the Bay of Bengal. Composed of, for the most part, the collective delta of these three rivers, the country’s terrain (with small highland exceptions in the north and in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in the southeast panhandle) is mostly flat alluvial plain (i.e. low and wet). It has one of the lowest average elevations of any country.

These geographical conditions place Bangladesh on the edge of the cliff. If the climate model results reported in the New Scientist Magazine in 2003 come even close to being true, the land will be pushed over the edge:

- flooding in the country is set to increase by up to 40 per cent this century as global temperatures rise, the latest climate models suggest.

- heavier rainfall triggered by global warming will swamp Bangladesh’s riverbanks, a previously unforeseen effect, flooding between 20 and 40 per cent more land than today, says Monirul Qader Mirza, a Bangladeshi water resources expert now at the Adaptation and Impacts Research Group at the University of Toronto.

- people can grow crops on land regularly fertilized by nutrient-laden silt from the rivers [see photo top right]. But extreme floods cause considerable hardship and loss of life: in 1988 and 1998 over two-thirds of the country was under water at some point.

Granted, the 40 percent figure is the worst case scenario, but even “if temperatures rose by just 2°C, two of the models showed that the mean flow of the Meghna and Brahmaputra rivers would increase by 20 per cent.” (New Scientist Article)

What will it take to give ourselves a good chance of (but not ensure) avoiding a 2 °C raise and increase the likelihood of sparing Bangladeshis great hardship? According to an article by George Monbiot (related to his new book **HEAT: How to Stop the**

Planet from Burning), it will take a 60% global reduction of greenhouse gases, a 90% average cut by rich countries, and a 94% cut by the U.S. by 2030. If this reasoning is even close to the mark, things look really bad for Bangladesh.

The threat to Bangladeshis of a sea-level rise and increased river flooding is exacerbated by its population density, the highest in the world of any sizable country. Imagine half the U.S. population living in Iowa; that’s Bangladesh’s population density.

When I visited as a student in HECUA’s 2004 January-Term Community and Development program, it was not the monsoon season, when one-third of the country is under water. But even in the dry season, the amount of land available for farming can be scarce in some areas.

A significant rise in sea level may tighten the land crunch beyond repair. According to my [Lonely Planet](#) book, “A 1m rise in the Bay of Bengal would result in a loss of 12% to 18% of the country’s land.”



Another threat of rising sea levels is infiltration of salt water in fresh water bodies and aquifers. This is especially troubling in a region where half of the tubewells are already contaminated with arsenic.

Already Bangladesh is experiencing an increase in urbanization as the rural poor and environmental refugees flock to Dhaka and other large cities. A third of Dhaka’s population lives in slums. While there, I learned that future increases in the city’s slum population will help make it the world’s second-most populous city by 2020.



The grey roofs you see in the foreground all make up one large slum. You can see how it stretches to

the edges of the lake, even if the ground doesn’t provide a solid foundation. If the migration into Dhaka increases according to projections, where will all these new people live? What will they eat and what water will they drink? These are huge problems that Bangladesh would have to deal with no matter what happens to the earth’s climate, but global warming threatens to make them much worse.

Bangladeshis are used to flooding and natural disasters. Besides the normal monsoon flooding every year, they have been hit on occasion by exceptionally bad floods. This happened in 1999, 2002, and 2003, to name just three recent years. In 1991, a cyclone killed over 130,000 people. In 1970, the Bhola cyclone killed at least 500,000 people, the deadliest tropical cyclone of all time.

In the wake of all these disasters, Bangladesh has improved its response system and disaster planning. But no amount of planning may prepare them for the potential consequences, and ripple effects, of a significant average global temperature rise.

I have been reading parts of Aldo Leopold’s [A Sand County Almanac](#) lately, and have been marveling at how ahead of its time it is, given that it was published in 1949. In “The Land Ethic,” Leopold argues that our ethical systems must evolve to take into account the entire community of life, not just other individuals or human society in general.

“In short, a land ethic changes the role of Homo sapiens from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it. It implies respect for his fellow-members, and also respect for the community as such.”

For global warming, we have to fight our subconscious tendency to only pay attention to localized problems, and consider the effect on the global community. We have to treat a threat to people halfway around the world as a threat to our neighbor or ourselves, because that’s what we would want people halfway around the world to do if the threat was to us or our neighbor, especially if we knew that our actions influenced this threat.

We don’t have to wait for the government to do anything. We don’t have to wait for CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards to be raised or for Wal-Mart to sell a bunch of CFLs. We don’t have to wait for utilities to add more renewable energy. We can adopt (or cultivate) our own Land Ethic, within ourselves. And if enough of us do this, we might find that we have saved Bangladesh -- not to mention Ethiopia, the Gulf Coast, or anywhere else in the land-community -- from the worst consequences of global warming.

* * *

To hear more from Jeffrey Brubaker, visit his blog entitled **Brudaimonia**.

<http://brudaimonia.blogspot.com>

Alumni Thoughts

Excerpt from “Scandinavian Public Transport,” Andrew Wambach’s Independent Study Report, SUST Fall ‘06

The movement of people in cities has been a major challenge to nations, counties and municipalities since the founding of the first human city thousands of years ago. As cities evolved and changed due to forces of industrialization and urbanization, many developed public transport systems to efficiently move people from place to place in cities that often started as walking cities. This challenge has been faced many times in the late 19th and 20th Centuries and will continue to be an ever changing issue for city planners, politicians, and the people that use these systems.

* * *

Oslo is the largest city of Norway with a population of around 521,000 according to the [Lonely Planet Guide](#): Norway (2005); however, as of the July census of 2006 the population has increased to 544,073 in the city, and is often regarded as the smallest of the three Scandinavian capitols. However, the city’s metropolitan area contains roughly 1.3 million people and an area of 8,903 Sq KM/3,438 Sq miles. The main transport company providing services in Oslo, *Oslo Sporveier*, recorded over 160 million passenger journeys in 2004.



Public transport emerged in Oslo around the end of the 19th Century starting in 1875 with the first horse-drawn tramlines. Later, tramlines become electrified in the 1890’s and horse services are dropped in 1900. This is a common stage in many public transport systems the conversion from horse drawn to electrification with the improvements brought from industrialization also reduced costs by no longer having to take care of horses. In 1912 the underground, which would later become the T-Bane, begins to be constructed and eventually opens with the first line in 1928 from Majorstua to Nationaltheatret. This lags significantly behind the London Underground that had its beginnings as early as 1854 in regards to underground service. Also around this time the company A/S Kristiania Sporveier is established in 1924 and then later becomes Oslo Sporveier along with the cities name change in 1925. The next major milestones are first

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the creation of the T-Bane in 1966 with a line from Jernbanetorget to Helsfyr and the Lambertseter-banen (originally built in 1957) from Helsfyr is converted into T-Bane standard, secondly the creation of a common fare system in 1975 and the opening of the tunnel between Nationaltheatret and Jernbanetorget in 1987, connecting the western and the eastern part of the underground system. All trains are forced to turn at Stortinget because of the two different electrical systems, and passengers have to switch there. However, this problem is solved in 1993 when the Sognsvann line (line 3) is fully converted to T-Bane standards and offers the first direct east-to-west service through Oslo. In 1988 the company *Oslo Sporveier* splits into three divisions each responsible for its own mode: T-Bane, Trikk (tram), and Bus. In 2000 construction begins on the T-Baneringen with the first part opening in 2003 with service from Ullevål Stadion to Storo and the second part being completed and fully opened in 2006 with service from Storo Carl Berners plass. Also in 2006, Oslo-Sporveier introduces the new T-Bane rolling stock the MX-3000.

In looking at the Norwegian budget from 2005, there is a large amount earmarked for Transportation projects: 20.9 Billion NOK/about \$3.2 Billion US Dollars. This is not surprising when looking over the facts Oslo Pakke 2; a funding package for improvements in public transport. In the summary in English the report states that 71% of the cost would be covered by the National Budget, a substantial contribution, while the other costs would be included in Oslo’s budget, and collected from both transport users and road users.

In the next few months, *Oslo Sporveier* hopes to introduce the long awaited Flexcity electronic cards to further ease integration between *Oslo Sporveier*, SL, and NSB local tog service.

During my time in Norway, I have had the opportunity to talk with people involved in transport planning and advocacy in the Oslo region. During my volunteer placement with Holger Schlaupitz of the Norwegian Conservation Society, I conducted an evaluation of transport services between Oslo and Akershus counties, which has been one of the major points of discussion over Oslo Pakke 3, the third funding package for transportation. Also through that placement I had the opportunity to meet and talk with Aud Tennoy, a researcher with NIBR: The Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research. She helped me find a case study to research in regards to Oslo Pakke 3.

Recently I had a conversation with Lars Bettum of Akershus fylkeskommune (the second largest county in Norway, which borders Oslo). During our discussion we covered several issues including: Oslo Pakke 3, the future of the Kolsås T-Bane, and the future of public transport in Oslo.

In regards to Oslo Pakke 3, Lars expressed to me the frustration with working in coalition governments and the processes of negotiations that funding pack-

ages such as Oslo Pakke 3 must go through before being sent to the Stortinget (Norwegian Parliament) for final approval. Oslo Pakke 3 has been in a state of negotiation for the past 2 years, with very little information available to the public. However, Lars brought up how some of the negotiations have been set back due to the opposition of some of the parties, particularly members of the Progress and Conserva-



tive parties that are more in favor of subsidizing new road investment vs. the continued subsidy of public transport.

Lars explained that in his opinion, Oslo needed an increase in other forms of travel including walking and bicycling. Oslo should look to Copenhagen, which has 42% of the population biking or walking to work as the bar that Oslo should measure itself against. The Sentrum of Oslo has become very congested once again simply due to such a mix of transport choices from trams and buses, taxis and personal vehicles; it can be very dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians. From Holger Schlaupitz I have also heard this need for increased accessibility for cyclists and that biking needs to be encouraged. Lars told me some results of surveys and studies that show a majority of cyclists traveling to the edge of the Sentrum and then switching to public transport to go the rest of the way in. This change should not be necessary.

* * *

Oslo’s public transportation system is relatively young and still evolving. Though well supported by government in the past, it is experiencing increased competition for revenue from roads. It also may have been too successful in turning riders away from walking and biking, a balance that is being recognized as an issue in many cities, including Minneapolis, MN. Achieving a balanced transit system that enables choice and results in an aesthetically pleasing urban environment is a major challenge for future transportation planners.

Interested in continuing a conversation about public transportation? Andrew would love to hear from you and can be reached at awambach@gmail.com