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COMFORTING ARMS: Kristi Horstman helped change the lives of AIDS orphans in Africa, only to find that they changed her as well.



GLOBAL DISCOVERY

Brueggeman Fellows travel the world—and find themselves

WHEN IT WAS TIME TO SAY GOODBYE, Kristi Horstman cried. It was the last thing the senior expected. When she arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, four weeks earlier, she was so flustered by travel troubles that she just wanted the trip to end.

“It was like, ‘OK, one month, I can do this, I’ll be able to get through it by myself,’” she says. “But by the end, I did not want to leave.”

Brought to Nairobi as part of her studies as a Winter-Cohen Student Fellow through the Edward B. Brueggeman Center for Dialogue, Horstman found herself transformed. Overwhelmed by the community and kindness of the people living amidst oppressive poverty in the world’s largest slum, she shifted the course

of her dreams 180 degrees, abandoning her longtime goal of a law career to focus on attending graduate school and working with international nonprofits.

Such transformation is what the Brueggeman Fellows program is all about. The fellowship lasts for two semesters and a summer, but the select nature of the group creates a special atmosphere. “Once you’re a Brueggeman Fellow, you’re a Brueggeman Fellow for life,” says the center’s director, James Buchanan.

Horstman is one of 33 fellows selected since the program’s inception in 2005. Fellows take part in Brueggeman Center activities and engage in monthly marathon reading-group discussions,

but it’s the student-initiated projects that set the program apart. Fellows design projects related to the work of the center and receive a \$3,000 travel stipend to do field work in the country of their choice. In doing so, they move out of their comfort zones—setting up their own sites and making their own travel plans—to study the issues of a globalized world at their root.

Thus far, fellows have traveled to 16 countries, with current fellows studying issues such as microfinance, ecosystems, infectious diseases, free-market socialism, tribal marriages and interfaith issues in places like Tanzania, Costa Rica, Gambia, Iran, Israel, China and Nepal.

Horstman’s trip to Kenya focused on demo-

cracy and religion. She taught at St. Aloysius Gonzaga, a school for AIDS orphans, and made solo treks into Nairobi for research interviews. "I think the first time it felt uncomfortable was when I had to go to downtown Nairobi alone," she says. "I had to talk to people. I had to do things on my own. That really helped me adjust."

About 60 students apply to become fellows each year, and the selection process is meticulous. "It's not just the GPA or the project," Buchanan says. "We talk to their advisors and the people who know them, because I have to make sure they are the type of person who can handle this kind of individual challenge."

Often, the effects of these challenges extend beyond the fellows to their parents, who come to see their children in a new light. Even Buchanan is surprised by the transformations

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he sees. "When I designed the program, I saw fellows learning in an interdisciplinary way, a global way and a systemic way," he says. "I never imagined that it would end up being about watching the growth and the confidence and the self-assurance of these young adults."

Horstman agrees with this assessment. "It absolutely changed me," she says. "It's probably the biggest milestone that I've come across so far. And I don't think that anything that I've done or will do would change me that much in that short amount of time. I took the LSAT three days before I left for Kenya. And then when I got back I just realized that there's no way I could go to law school. If someone had said on the first day, 'By the end of your month, you're not going to want to go to law school,' I would not have believed them."

Horstman says there's no doubt she'll return to Kenya. She keeps in contact with people there, and she'll stay in touch with the Brueggeman Center as well, because, she explains, "I'm kind of a Brueggeman Fellow for life."

GREG SCHABER

A Great Fair

This year's spring career fair reported record numbers according to Jennifer Franchak, assistant director for the Career Services Center. Nearly 600 students—up from about 400 last year—and almost 100 employers attended the event.

The reason?

"The Career Services Center reorganized the all campuswide career fairs beginning in spring 2007 to appeal to a wide variety of majors, including business and liberal arts," says Franchak.

"To do this, we set out to invite corporate, government and non-profit employers in order to appeal to the wide variety of career aspirations that Xavier students possess. As a result, more students found the career fairs to be an important job/internship search event for which to attend."

SCHOOL OF ROCK

When senior marketing major Dan Reder was invited to join indie rock band Close to Home, the moment was bittersweet. The original bass player, Brad Andress, died from cancer at age 20, so the remaining members asked Reder to step in. Since then, the Cincinnati native has had to balance both schoolwork and musical aspirations. "In October, we did a two-week tour of Hard Rock Cafés as part of their 'Rocktober' event to raise money for cancer research, which is especially important to us because of Brad," Reder says.

The band usually books gigs around Reder's class schedule with weekend trips around the region and longer tours over academic breaks. And when the opportunity arose to attend this year's Grammy Awards as the spokespeople for the Sexy Hair product line, Reder had to decline. He had class. This summer, the band is touring Canada and, later, Europe. The band, which was named one of the top 10 unsigned bands by *Alternative Press Magazine*, also has sponsorships from companies such as Red Bull and Taylor Guitars.



CAPTURING THE WORLD

Jessica McCoy was taking part in an academic service learning semester in India when she took a sunrise boat ride on the Ganges River, which runs through Varanasi, a holy city in the Hindu faith. As the sun rose, the senior liberal arts major saw dozens of women, dressed in their finest attire, lining the banks, taking part in the Chhath festival, where they stand on the banks of the river all night and then



WINNERS: "Shy Boy" by Rebecca Collins (top); "Paanii" by Jessica McCoy (bottom).

worship the sun the next morning to ask for health and prosperity for their husbands, children and future ones. McCoy picked up her camera in an effort to capture the color of the clothing, and in doing so also captured first place in the University's second annual international photo contest. "India lends itself nicely to taking amazing pictures," says McCoy, who won a Canon G-7 camera. "The colors in my photo are an everyday occurrence. Color is very much a part of their entire wardrobe." Alumni also took part in the contest, with Rebecca Collins, Class of 2000, winning for a photo of a boy in Kenya. See all the photos at www.xavier.edu/alumni.