



Alumni Briefing

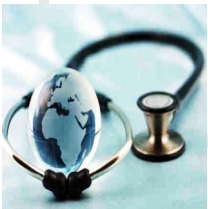
The newsletter for the *John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations Alumni and Friends*
Volume V, Issue 2—Fall/Winter 2010

News Highlights



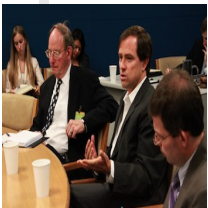
Seton Hall Names 20th President

Seton Hall's Board of Regents has appointed A. Gabriel Esteban Seton Hall's next President, effective immediately.



Global Health Governance: The AIDS Response

UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibe guest edits special Journal issue on global health challenges in the wake of the AIDS response. *Global Health Governance* is the online journal of the School's Center for Global Health Studies, led by Dr. Yanzhong Huang.



Uniting Nations: An Insiders' View

50 delegates went behind the scenes at the U.N. during the Whitehead School's 11th annual U.N. Intensive Summer Study Program led by Dr. Courtney Smith.



Running of the Pirates

On a chilly December morning, over 40 students and alumni travelled to Cherry Hill, N.J. to honor a fallen classmate with a wave of SHU blue.



Maggie Dougherty: Modern-Day Abolitionist

Slavery still exists in the 21st Century. Whitehead School student Maggie Dougherty is determined to change that.

Event Highlights



[Secretary General Ban Ki-moon visits the Whitehead School](#)

Ban Ki-moon joined the ranks of Kofi Annan and Mikhail Gorbachev as the Whitehead School's latest World Leaders Forum guest on November 22, 2010.



[Harold Ford: An Objective View of Politics](#)

Earlier this fall, Congressman Harold Ford, Jr. candidly offered his insights of the nation's ever-evolving political climate.



[Speaker Series: Governance after the Crisis](#)

A new lecture series hosted by Dr. Martin Edwards examines the role of international organizations in the changing global economy. Missed the inaugural events? Watch the first two presentations on video here!

Faculty Highlights



[Ambassador Luers Joins Faculty](#)

The Whitehead School proudly welcomed former President of UNA-USA as a Fall 2010 Tom and Ruth Sharkey Distinguished Visiting Scholar. Ambassador Luers provided instruction and personal insight on "Engaging the Enemy."



[Dr. Huang Awarded Fellowship](#)

Dr. Yanzhong Huang was appointed a Visiting Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.



A Transfer of Energy

In exchange for Dr. Margarita Balmaceda dedicating her time and talents to pursuing a recently awarded Marie Curie Fellowship, two Whitehead School students were awarded all-expense paid international summer program scholarships.

WAA Executive Board & Upcoming Events



C. EDUARDO VARGAS, M.A. '07
President



BRYCE KINCAID, M.A. '08
Vice-President



ORGES KOKA, M.B.A./M.A. '07
Secretary, &
Minister of Sports & Recreation



NATASHA J. TRIPLETT, M.A. '09
Events Chair

Alumni Opportunity

Gain valuable insights into the nature and scope of conflicts and conflict resolution in Africa and examine the roles played by the African Union and the U.S.

The **African Union Seminar** course DIPL 2114/6710, taught by Dr. Bariagaber, will examine conflicts in the Horn of Africa, Political, Economic, and Health Dimensions of African Security, the role of the AU, NGO's and International Organizations in Africa, as well as US security interests in Africa. The group will receive briefings and participate in panel discussions with AU officials, AU Peace and Security Council officials, US Mission to the AU officials, and US Embassy (to Ethiopia) officials. There will be lectures at Addis Ababa University faculty and at the offices of the Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA). Also included are panel discussions by officials of organizations such as Oxfam International, the Center for Citizens Participation in the AU, the Institute for Security Studies, the Economic Commission for Africa, and AFRICOM.

To learn about last year's trip, click here: [African Union Study Seminar 2010](#).

The trip dates are June 6 to 16, 2011. Interested alumni should attend the information session being held in the Diplomacy Room on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 4 p.m. or contact Dean Bakes or Dr. Bariagaber with questions.

Alumni Profile

Diplomacy in Action

Papa B. Guisse, M.A. '09, specialized in Economic Development and International Organizations while studying diplomacy at the Whitehead School. He recently started an organization named Jokko, and discussed with us the challenges and rewards of building an NGO.



How did you come to be interested in pursuing a career in international affairs?

I was born in Senegal, which is located on the westernmost point of Africa. Senegal is a developing country; it is poor, but luckily enough it has so far been immune to war and dictatorship. I moved to France as a child and came to the U.S. for both my undergraduate and graduate studies.

The reality that many people in my home country do not have access to the most basic needs was more than enough motivation for me to become engaged in international relations. When you add to that the troubling general situation throughout the Continent and the negative image it reflects, I feel that being proactive is my obligation.

How did your experience at Seton Hall enable you to take action in response to these issues?

My experience provided me with a strong foundation in international relations and a directly applicable skill set. It also encouraged my classmates and I to dream about using our training to make a difference.

In the spring of 2009, 9 classmates and I, who are representative of the diversity of the Whitehead School (4 Americans, 2 Germans, 1 Japanese, 1 Nigerian and 1 Spaniard), began late night brainstorming sessions to determine how we could channel our common desire to build a better world.

With the support that we received through the Whitehead School's passionate community, we decided to create an organization that embraced our shared vision. It took us more than a year to develop a clear idea of what we wanted to achieve and how we could reach our objective. Today, Jokko, which literally translates to communicating or networking in Wolof (a Senegalese National Language), is a non-profit organization registered with the state of New Jersey that has obtained Federal Exemption status from the IRS.

“With the support that we received through the Whitehead School’s passionate community, we decided to create an organization that embraced our shared vision.”

What are your main objectives for Jokko in both the short-term and the long-term?

The objective of Jokko is to create a network that will help alleviate the issues caused by the severe poverty that millions of young people face around the world. For example, we are currently supporting grassroots organizations that promote efficient and sustainable educational programs. We are also working on strengthening our institution, while trying to raise awareness.

Our long-term goal is to provide assistance at the global level. We want to build an organization that helps to ensure that quality education is accessible to all. We also hope to demonstrate that despite our differing backgrounds, we can find ways to avoid a zero-sum game.

What resources does Jokko rely on to improve conditions in impoverished countries and how does the organization utilize these resources to achieve its goals?

As a new organization, Jokko has very limited resources. So far all our funds have come from member donations and the fundraisers we have held. We launched our first project in November 2010, and we are raising funds to build an observation room in the medical center of a shelter for street children in Malika, Senegal.

We have held several fundraising events in South Orange, Manhattan, and D.C. 100% of the funds collected will be used to ensure that the sick children are monitored on the premises in Malika. We hope that we will achieve this goal soon. Having spent much time learning about the issues that hinder nongovernmental work; we strive to avoid unnecessary overhead costs and misuse of funds as much as possible.

What factors have aided or hindered your progress with the organization thus far? What role do your members play, and what can they do to help move the organization further?

Because we depend entirely on volunteers, our members are essential. The passion of our members and their willingness to actively engage in problem-solving discussions about complex issues has been our main drive, especially since many of us are new to the process of building an organization from the ground up.

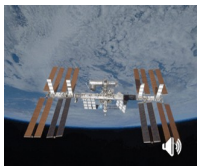
Therefore, while the workload can be quite demanding, we have been extremely successful so far. We have increased our membership (30 today) and have received great feedback, which has reinforced our view that this project is realistic and will be beneficial. We encourage anyone who shares our views to join us by getting involved in our activities, helping us raise funds, participating in our continuous brainstorming sessions, or donating. Those interested in getting involved can visit our website at www.jokko-int.org or email us at info@jokko-int.org.

What have you learned from all of your collective work in the field of IR thus far?

My personal and professional experiences have reinforced my view that a better world is possible only if we as a global community focus on using our common energies and resources to address critical issues.

On a lighter note, I've also learned that many students want to get involved in meaningful projects while studying, and I hope that Jokko will provide them with the opportunity to do so.

Alumni Updates



[The Year Ahead in Space](#)

Listen in as Whitehead alumna Ashley Bander, M.A. '06, moderates a C-SPAN panel on exciting missions and tough decisions concerning space policy.



[Inside Indonesia](#)

Follow Whitehead alumna, Grace Chung '10, as she reflects on her experience as an English teaching Fulbright Scholar.



[Carnegie Council Publishes Essay by Whitehead Alumna](#)

Caitlin Tierney, B.S./M.A. August '10, provides timely scholarship on nuclear proliferation.



[National Public Radio Welcomes Whitehead Alumnus](#)

Formerly an intern, now, a full-time employee, Zishan Jiwani '10 delivers the news with a new spin.



[Turning Lemons Into Lemonade](#)

Whitehead alumnus Luis A. Ramirez, M.A. '07 has spent the last two years building a global nonprofit after being inspired by the miraculous life of his daughter.



[What's the Big Deal?](#)

Young alumnus Prashant Hosur, M.A. '09, offers scholarly insight on the Indo-U.S. civilian nuclear agreement in *International Journal*.



[Diplomacy Alumnus Named Fulbright Scholar](#)

John Papaspanos '10, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship that has taken him to Greece to research energy policy.

- **Thirumalai Parthasarathy, M.A. '03**, is Vice-President (Africa) -Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability for Olam International Limited.
- **Nionese Eunice, M.A./M.P.A. '03**, is the Founder and President of Haiti Development Project as well as an Advisory Board Member for the Center for Globally Responsible Political Thought and Public Policy.
- **Bonny-Uchenna Life, M.A. '06**, is the Founder and President of Nigerian Student Ambassadors Forum, a 501 © non-profit organization, and is currently authoring a book, tentatively entitled, *Refocusing Nigeria: Challenges to Nigeria's Development, Impact of the Ol'Dirty Politicians, Corruption as Politics and the Collective Solutions*. He was a Presentation and Panel Discussion Coordinator on Strategies for African Development for the World Igbo Congress, 14th Annual Convention.

SUBMIT YOUR ALUMNI UPDATE TODAY

[Please update my contact information >>](#)

[I would like to share some exciting news with the WAA community >>](#)

Resources for Alumni

- [Whitehead Alumni Association \(WAA\)](#)
- [Whitehead Alumni Association on Facebook](#)
- [Seton Hall Office of Alumni Relations](#)
- [Whitehead School Facebook Fan Page](#)
- [Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations](#)
- [Whitehead Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations](#)
- [Whitehead Alumni LinkedIn Page](#)

Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations
Seton Hall University
400 South Orange Avenue
South Orange, NJ 07079
Phone: (973) 275-2515
Fax: (973) 275-2519