

# **Conference highlighting students' off-campus learning experiences**

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**November 2, 2009  
Smith College Campus Center**

## **Concurrent Student Panel Discussions**

**Session One: 4:10 to 5:00 p.m.  
Session Two: 5:10 to 6:00 p.m.**

*Reception to follow: Wilson Atrium*



**SMITH COLLEGE**

The Smith Elects the World Conference was established to explore the relationship between the formal education that takes place in the classroom and the learning that happens off campus when students engage in Praxis internships, community service and study abroad.

Forty-one students, nominated by faculty members, will describe how their studies shaped their off-campus pursuits and how, in turn, insights gained off campus have enriched their academic programs.

All of their stories provide compelling evidence that these off-campus learning experiences contribute significantly to a liberal arts education.

The Smith Elects the World Conference is sponsored by the Office of the Dean of the College, the Career Development Office and the Committee on Academic Priorities.

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## **SESSION ONE: 4:10 to 5:00 PM**

### **PANEL I: Economic Development**

**CC 003**

*Moderator: Catharine Newbury, Professor, Government*

*Women Public Call Offices in Afghanistan*

*Roya Mohammadi '10*

*Praxis/Internship*

I did a 2009 summer internship with Roshan's social development program in Kabul. Roshan Social Programs is the Corporate Social Responsibility department of Telecom Development Company in Afghanistan. My internship involved training women with the goal of empowering them for entrepreneurial work. I developed strategies for promoting Women Public Call Offices (WPCOs) and Women Mobile Money (WM-Paisa). To do my research, I met with as many women as possible who were already running WPCOs. Meeting and talking to women operators was the most interesting part of my internship. I was always wondering why the life quality of poor people is so slow to change despite the inflow of billions of dollars of aid in Afghanistan. Though my project was small, it still gave me a feel for why Afghanistan steps towards development so slowly. From my internship, I have learned that many Afghans lack sufficient skills and have few examples of work competition that would help them complete a successful project. In addition, aid distributors with great development vision but little cultural understanding struggle to find efficient ways of initiating development projects.

*Women's and Youth Entrepreneurship at the International Labor Organization in Geneva*

*Nicole Widger '10*

*Praxis/Internship*

I will talk about my experience working for the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland during the spring and summer of 2009. I worked in the Small Enterprise Development sector and focused on Women's and Youth Entrepreneurship. This provided me with great insight into the world of international organizations, and I was able to see how ideas and policies within large institutions were implemented to affect people on a local level. After meeting and working with so many diverse people in this type of workplace, I have expanded my knowledge of how international organizations function. My attendance at some of the ILO and UN Conferences in June has fueled my ambition to create positive change throughout the world.

*A Summer of Tomatoes: Cooperative Micro-Business in Rural Mexico*

*Lonicera Lyttle '10*

*Praxis/Internship*

I will present on the field research I did for the Center for Global Justice in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. For two weeks, I lived on the *ejido* ranch, Peñón de los Baños, where I studied the community's newly-established tomato-greenhouse cooperative. I compiled information on its costs, benefits, and overall effect on the people living there. This experience has dramatically affected my own priorities and values. I have come to see the role of microcredit as a tool to combat poverty and have since rekindled my love for the study of economics.

### **PANEL II: Women's Health**

**CC 102**

*Moderator: Danielle Ramdath, Associate Dean of the Faculty*

*There's More to Maternal Health than Catching Babies!*

*Katherin Hudkins '10*

*International Study*

Catching a baby at its birth wasn't as exciting as I thought it would be. After I became interested in childbirth and midwifery my first year at Smith, I went to rural Guatemala to learn as much as I could about traditional midwifery and to decide whether or not I wanted to be a midwife. I attended six births, caught four babies, and had more than enough downtime to think. I will discuss my experiences with traditional Guatemalan midwifery and rural daily life. These experiences taught me that I do not want to be a midwife, and revealed to me a new path within the field of maternal health. Experience truly is the best teacher. My summer in the field continues to enrich my liberal arts education, my career goals, and my life. I will talk about the value of trying new things, being open to surprise, and self-reflection.

*Women's Health in Tanzania*  
*Rachel O'Sullivan '12J*  
*Research/Travel Abroad*

I will talk about my experience working with a doctor and a nurse midwife in Tanga, Tanzania. I had the special opportunity to work closely with a doctor on forming an organization dedicated to lowering the maternal and infant mortality rates in the area. I was able to learn not only from observing sessions with patients but also by developing health education classes as preventive medicine with the doctor's supervision. Through working with women in Tanzania, I have come away with a passion to further my own education in women's health and women's education so that I may soon be able to pass my knowledge on to those who need it.

*Knowledge and Practice of Preventive Measures against HIV/STD Transmission: Salvador, Bahia, Brazil*  
*Marla Maccia '10*  
*Research/Travel Abroad*

I participated in a Public Health and Community Welfare program directed by a Brazilian anthropologist in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil in the fall of 2008. I spent one month of my time there researching different communities' knowledge of HIV/STD transmission and their knowledge and use of contraceptives. I focused on homosexual females because my advisor works with an organization that supports lesbian women. I used questionnaires and interviews to interact with members of the community and found that there is a lack of understanding of these issues among young women, both lesbian and straight. While Brazil has developed a successful AIDS information campaign, the information is geared toward men in the "machismo" Latin culture. This has opened my eyes to how ineffective campaigns can be, and how public health information is influenced by cultural values and not easily accessible to those who most need it.

### **PANEL III: Education/Youth** **CC 103/104**

*Moderator: Stacie Hagenbaugh, Director, Career Development Office*

*The Good Childhood: My Practicum at a Danish Childcare Center*  
*Meredith Jones '10*  
*International Study*

During the spring semester of 2009, I studied abroad in Copenhagen through the Danish International Studies Program. As part of my coursework, I had a weekly practicum at a childcare center serving both typically developing children as well as those with special needs, predominantly ADHD. I will provide an overview of the Danish childcare system and discuss how the Nordic philosophy of "en god barndom" or the "good childhood" influences the center's practices. Finally I will show how this experience has influenced my academic interests and my goal of becoming a school psychologist.

*How my Smith Education was Influenced by Researching and Teaching Biological Sciences*  
*Pamela Cote '10*  
*Fellowship*

I will discuss my experiences with the Smith College Urban Education Fellowship Program during Interterm 2008 and my experience with the Northampton High school Science Teaching Fellowship during Interterm and March of 2009. In both programs I worked directly in the classroom preparing lessons and teaching biology to middle and high school students and assisting students with their assignments. I will also talk about my summer research experience in the Cancer Immunology and AIDS department at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston during the summer of 2008 and 2009. My experiences teaching and conducting research gave me the opportunity to appreciate the impact teaching and biomedical research has in the community and the world. Ultimately, these experiences have allowed me to shape my undergraduate academic and career goals as a future scientist and teacher.

*Putting Theory Into Practice: Giving back what I've been given*  
*Paola Tineo '11*  
*Community Service*

Throughout the course of my life there have been people and organizations who have pushed me to strive for success. Coming from impoverished urban communities, I am grateful for that extra push. After being at Smith College for a couple of months I realized there was something I wasn't doing it. Through the community service office I decided to use what I was learning in the classroom to empower children and teenagers living in communities like my own. Keeping in mind Paulo Freire's theory on liberating the oppressed, I started working with programs in Springfield and Holyoke and then expanded to create a program in the Dominican Republic.

*Through My Eyes; Putting Theory to Practice*  
*Trina L. Coleman, Ada Comstock Scholar*  
*Praxis/Internship*

I will reflect on my experience at Dunbar Community Center in Springfield as an intern over the past summer. I worked to foster the Hasbro Summer Learning Initiative (HSLI), a program of the Hasbro Corporation. A goal of this partnership was to provide "literacy support to enhance the potential programs for improving youth outcomes and stemming summer learning loss." I assisted a HSLI specialist in increasing and providing literacy support during summer 2009. My experience with Dunbar Community Center was life-changing. My coursework on Individuals with Disabilities made it possible for me to work with the children at Dunbar with special needs. The many challenges they face as students or in their everyday lives is reflected in their behaviors. In applying my previously-learned theory to my work, I was able to forge bonds with the children that proved beneficial during my daily reading efforts. Upon completion of my internship, I was thrilled to announce to my professors in the education department my intent of adding special education to my area of concentration.

## **PANEL IV: Farming/Environmental**

### **CC 204**

*Moderator: Sue Briggs, Program Administrator, Dean of the College Office*

*Women and Empowerment in Cameroon*  
*Kathryn Freeman '10*  
*Research/Travel Abroad*

I will speak about my experiences in Cameroon as a student with the School for International Training in the Fall 2008 semester. For my independent study project I examined the experiences of women farmers in solidarity groups. Through qualitative interviews I sought to discover if group work in the fields was empowering these strong women farmers. Doing this research challenged my ideas about what feminism looks like and what it means to be a woman. I was pushed to examine where my ideas and ideals come from and the role that culture plays in my life. Ultimately my experience in Cameroon has shaped the way I look at development, feminism, and the world. I have a greater desire to learn more and look at situations from many points of view, I know that nothing is one sided or simple. For this I thank my many host mothers and host sisters in Cameroon who allowed me into their fields and their lives.

*Groundhogs, Grapes and the Green Monster*

*Francesca King '10*  
*Praxis/Internship*

In summer 2009, I worked as a technician's assistant at Cornell University's research vineyard on Long Island, New York. I will discuss the daily obstacles faced by the vineyard, including personal struggles such as overcoming a fear of the Green Monster – an ooze-squirting, hissing, giant caterpillar with spikes. As my research was focused on limiting the use of herbicides, I will also explore my reaction towards sustainability efforts in viticulture. My experience contradicts much of what I have learned in the classroom, and I was pleasantly surprised to find that many vineyard managers are already to acting sustainably.

*ConSuma Dignidad: Education for Responsible Consumption in Buenos Aires*  
*Claire Denton-Spalding '10*  
*Research/Travel Abroad*

I will evaluate my experience as a volunteer with ConSuma Dignidad in Buenos Aires from March to June 2009. During this time, I facilitated a series of workshops about fair trade, responsible consumption, and the environment for high school students. The project began with a role play of the system of global trade and culminated in a project on environmental and human rights issues. My volunteer experience overlapped with a course on Sustainable Development, which dealt with the relationship between humans and nature. The experience has opened my eyes to the degradation of the environment and inherent inequality caused by globalization. Upon my return to Smith, I have continued to explore these issues through economics, taking courses on Latin American economics and urban development.

## **PANEL V: Architecture**

### **CC 205**

*Moderator: Maureen Mahoney, Dean of the College*

*Urbanism in Florence, Italy*  
*Mary Miller '10*  
*Blumberg Fellowship*

I will discuss the ten months I spent living in Florence and the valuable experiences that have had an impact my career aspirations in the field of architecture and urbanism. Significant influences affecting my perspective on urbanism were an internship with an architectural firm specializing in historical preservation, an independent research project concerning Florentine architecture, and general day-to-day living in the birthplace of the Renaissance.

*Fatimid Architecture of Cairo*  
*Yvette Elfawal '10*  
*Research/Travel Abroad*

In the winter of 2009, I traveled to Cairo to research Fatimid-Islamic architecture. As part of the project, I took approximately 3,000 photos at over 30 sites, and completed the research by writing an in-depth analysis (research paper) of specific architectural sites in the spring of 2009. I will review some of the concepts I discovered, such as the presence of an Ismaili Shiite identity in Fatimid architecture, and will supplement my presentation with some of the photos I took. I will talk about the establishment of Cairo as the seat of power for the Fatimids and its development as a new urban center that specifically served the agenda of the new ruling class. I will talk about the creation of a physical boundary between “believers” and “non-believers,” and the Fatimids’ domination of Egypt economically, politically, and socially through their extensive architectural patronage. I will also talk about the signs of Ismaili ideology, which are manifested in architectural elements and motifs. As is shown through the built environment, in terms of style and symbolism, there is a well-developed argument for the relationship between architecture and Ismaili ideology, as well as the dynastic associations.

*SketchUp Summer: 3-D Architectural Modeling at Metcalfe Associates in Northampton*

*Kira Disén '10*  
*Praxis/Internship*

I will review my summer internship experience working for Metcalfe Associates Architecture Firm in Northampton. Over the three-month period (and continuing even now), I worked with Tristram W. Metcalfe and his clients to design, perfect and present two houses which incorporate not only advanced design, but also cutting-edge green technology. This internship has opened up the world of architecture and design in a way I had not previously imagined. I experienced not only the joys of architectural design, but also the pitfalls of working with clients, software, deadlines and real-life material physics. This experience has provided me with valuable life skills and has made me re-think my career choices, not only as an architect, but as an artist and student as well.

## **PANEL VI: International NGOs**

### **CC Carroll Room**

*Moderator: Lisa Chappell, Assistant Dean for International Study*

*Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo*  
*Adrienne Klein '10*  
*Praxis/Internship*

I will review my Praxis internship experiences as a translator for The Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires during the spring of 2008. For 3 months I worked in the National Libraries, the library and main office for the Grandmothers locating bibliographic materials, translating and cataloging for the public opening of their library. The impact of my experience was profound in shaping my understanding of the history and politics in Argentina and my ability to empathize with the Grandmothers' personal accounts. I return to the United States and Smith College with the stories and histories of people I worked with, begging to be shared. I also return with a focus in Latin America for my research in anthropology and a confirmed sense that I wish to pursue forensic work in a human rights context.

*"Supporting Child's Rights through Education, Arts, and the Media" (SCREAM): My Praxis internship with the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor in Geneva, Switzerland*  
*Marguerite Davenport '10*  
*Praxis/Internship*

During my junior year abroad I interned with the International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC), a department within the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland. This presentation will highlight my experience evaluating "awareness raising, campaigning and social mobilization" projects and their effectiveness in combating child labor. I will specifically focus on the advocacy program, "Supporting Children's Rights through Education, Arts, and the Media" (SCREAM) to examine how social mobilization initiatives are being used as part of a multifaceted approach to promote the ILO child labor conventions. I will reflect on my experience in light of my ongoing education on the role of international organizations and my personal questions about the concept of development, and the international framework addressing development issues in the context of rapid globalization.

*Seeing another world: Working with Marginalized Parisians at the Organization Autremonde.*  
*Julia Mandeville '10*  
*International Study*

I will review my experiences volunteering at an association called Autremonde as part of a service-learning course during my junior year abroad in Paris. The association's mission is to help socially re-integrate people on the margins of society; every week, we held an open house where guests could come and have a cup of coffee and "bavarder un peu" (chat a bit). My experiences working with this association changed the way I think about France, the way I think about immigration, and the way I think about the relationship between state social services and volunteer associations and made my experience in Paris rich and unique.

*Revolutionary Beginnings and a Repressed End: The Life of Africans in Contemporary Russia*  
Radhika Garland '10  
International Study

I will review my experience studying in St. Petersburg, at Russia's first Liberal Arts College, during the Spring semester of 2009. Among other courses on Russian culture and politics, my particular area of research was anthropology. I conducted interviews with Africans living in St. Petersburg, to discover the particulars of their daily experience. In recent years there has been a rash of racially-induced hate crimes in Russia, including armed attacks by Fascists and Neo-Nazis. I wanted to understand how Africans have been coping in such an environment and why they remain. This study and the interviews I conducted have opened up my mind to new ways of thinking about race and cultural trends. I hope to continue my research of ethnic minorities in Russia, with a view towards learning about how different cultures have historically interacted with each other and what the consequences of the interaction have been.

## **SESSION TWO: 5:10 to 6:00 PM**

### **PANEL I: Scientific/Medical Research CC 003**

**Moderator: Donald Baumer, Professor, Government**

*Not Your Average Hawaiian Vacation: Field School at the Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes*  
Kristen Rahilly '10  
Praxis/Internship

This past summer, I did a Praxis internship in a field school on volcano monitoring with the Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes in Hawaii. Alongside 16 other students, I had the opportunity to learn about four different areas of volcano monitoring: seismology, physical volcanology, deformation, and gas geochemistry. Within each unit, I was taught how to look at volcanoes with a new perspective and with different types of equipment. Not only did I get an introduction to the techniques of monitoring volcanoes, I was also fortunate enough to work with professional scientists from the University of Hawaii and the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. As part of our work, I climbed an active volcano, saw flowing lava, measured ground deformation, and took gas samples. Although I've always been interested in volcanoes, my experience in Hawaii has widened my perspective on the local and global affects of volcanism and the ever important connection between policy-making and science.

*Animal Care and Research at Aviarios Sloth Sanctuary*  
Maggie McCaffrey '10  
International Study

During the summer of 2009, I was one of eight volunteers working at the Aviarios Sloth Sanctuary outside of Cahuita, Costa Rica. As a volunteer, I worked primarily in animal care, getting up very early every morning to clean cages, feed the animals, and prepare food for the afternoon feedings. We conducted a study to evaluate the amount of food the sloths could eat. Every morning we measured the food left from the day before and fed each of the study sloths a set amount of leaves in the morning and food in the afternoon. We also exercised the young sloths (up to a year old), taking them out up to three times a week to explore the specially-built jungle gym. Since sloths in the wild climb down from the canopy once a week to defecate and urinate, we took the juveniles (1 to 3 years) out to explore the forest floor. I also assisted when tour groups came, answering questions and handling the sloths. Every day working at the sanctuary was a dream come true as it gave me the opportunity to experience what life would be like as a zoologist. I will share some anecdotes, photographs, and sloth facts.

*Deciding to be a Physician*  
Catherine Murphy '10  
Praxis/Internship

I will report on my experiences as an intern at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center during the summer of 2009. At Bayview I gained insight into and experience in several areas of hospital operation and medical care and research. I learned

of hand-hygiene practices working with epidemiologists of the Department of Infection Control, I learned of diagnosis processes on rounds with attending physicians of the Department of Infectious Diseases, and learned of research methods conducting clinical research with physicians and epidemiologists of the Departments of Infectious Diseases and Infection Control. I entered Bayview *thinking* I would become a physician and left Bayview *knowing* I will become one.

## **PANEL II: Libraries/Archives**

**CC 102**

*Moderator: Danielle Ramdath, Associate Dean of the Faculty*

*Working as an Étudiante-Chercheur at the Centre Louis Gernet  
Leah Schwartzman '10  
International Study*

I will talk about my experience as a library intern and research assistant at the Centre Louis Gernet/Bibliothèque Gernet-Glotz in Paris during the spring semester of my junior year abroad in Paris. For four months I worked as an assistant to Claude Calame, director of studies at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and eminent specialist in the field of Greek lyric poetry, translating Professor Calame's articles from French into English for submission to scholarly journals for review. In addition, I worked as a library assistant, helping to facilitate the day-to-day functioning of the Bibliothèque Gernet-Glotz by shelving books, cataloguing inventory and registering new acquisitions. Both of these experiences were invaluable in the development and execution of my "Mémoire de Stage", a 30-page research paper, written under Professor Calame's direction and supervision, on the epicinian odes of Pindar and Bacchylides

*My Year Abroad in Italy: Adventures in Art, History and (Cultural) Identity  
Debleena Mitra '10  
Blumberg Fellowship*

I will discuss how during my year abroad I learned the value of cross-cultural exchanges. While studying art history in Florence, I learned much about beautiful artwork and good food, but I also discovered many new things about myself. Perhaps most important, I was able to find the real meaning of self-expression. I will demonstrate my journey through my Blumberg research on the iconography of Mary Magdalene and my internship at the Biblioteca degli Uffizi. Building on that topic, I will talk of the challenges and successes of my life in Florence and of identifying oneself in a foreign context. The final aspect of my presentation will focus on how I am applying my new-found sense of identity here in my classes at Smith College. It is ironic that my original academic goal was to define the identity of Mary Magdalene, and somehow along the way I ended up finding my own.

*Historic Deerfield and Me  
Heather Johnston '10  
Praxis/Internship*

In my presentation I will describe how I came to be at Smith, how I came to choose my major, and how I learned of the Henry N. Flynt Library in Historic Deerfield. I spent six weeks of the summer not only learning how a library runs, but also discovering the strength and wisdom evident in the small town of Deerfield. Over the course of the summer I met dedicated people, assisted in projects and toured the museum-houses. During my time here I at Smith, I have explored all the avenues that I may pursue after graduation, including library sciences, and especially archiving and book preservation.

## **PANEL III: Domestic Non-Profit**

**CC 103/104**

*Moderator: Stacie Hagenbaugh, Director, Career Development Office*

*The All-Consuming Nature of a Successful Political Campaign  
Audrey Monday '11  
Praxis/Internship*

This past summer, I had the opportunity to work on John C. Liu's campaign as a candidate for Comptroller of New York City. I was selected under a critical application and interview process by the People for John Liu as part of Mr. Liu's educational initiative to provide opportunities for young professionals to become active in politics and also to see how governmental institutions function at the local level. During the internship I took on various responsibilities. I handled administrative tasks, such as organizing and maintaining the campaign's volunteers and supporters database. I perfected my verbal communication skills making phone calls to volunteers and supporters. Under the supervision of campaign professionals, I also did some scheduling of Mr. Liu's endorsement interviews and appearances. I had the opportunity of shadowing Mr. Liu by attending some of these events with him. In my presentation, I will discuss my experiences in detail, the learning behind those experiences and how the overall experience of working on a campaign have affected my ideas about future careers and my perception of politics.

*Central American Resource Center (CARECEN): Building a Strong Latina Community Through Education*  
*Susan Elizabeth Salinas '10*  
*Praxis/Internship*

I will discuss my Praxis internship experience at CARECEN in Los Angeles within the education program. I served as an instructor in CARECEN's first summer school program, "Wings, Roots, & Hope," where I worked closely with children ages 5 to 13. I also assisted the Education Department Coordinator, Raul Borbon, with the parent leadership workshops, which informed parents about the college process and requirements. I participated in local education policy meetings and various community events. I also supervised another set of volunteers that came from UCLA's Worksource program who were also committed to social and economic justice for the Latina community.

*Living Out Loud: Young Women and Art*  
*Kaitlyn Krauskopf '10*  
*Praxis/Internship*

During the summer of 2009, I used Praxis funding to work as an intern at my local art association in New Castle, Indiana. I worked in collaboration with a small group of disadvantaged teenage women at the local youth center, and I structured a large art project for them to present to the community. Because young women in the arts are often overlooked, the project became a way for the girls to voice their stories and contribute within the community. We worked together to paint individual colorful self-portraits that tell a story about the girls' lives and what is important to them, and we assembled the paintings into a large installation project that is now on display at the Henry County Art Association gallery. I will be discussing my time with the girls, their project and perspectives, and some of the challenges and rewards of my experience.

## **PANEL IV: Theatre/Arts**

### **CC 204**

*Moderator: Sue Briggs, Program Administrator, Dean of the College Office*

*An Anthropological Perspective on the Edinburgh Fringe Festival*  
*Karen Sise '10*  
*Research/Travel Abroad*

I was one of ten students selected to go to Edinburgh for two weeks this summer in a course through the University of Massachusetts to study at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. I was able to draw on my skills and knowledge in technical theatre, music, and anthropology to study various elements during the festival. My intention was to focus on sound use in theatre but shifted my focus in the middle of data collection to study the use of space. I have come back with much more data than I had anticipated, resulting in one paper for the original course and a research project in the works for an Urban Anthropology seminar this semester. During the presentation I will elaborate on the unique show environments I experienced.

*Flavors of French Literature*  
*Rebecca Weiner '10*  
*Blumberg Fellowship*

I will review my experiences traveling in France on a Blumberg travel fellowship. For the month of June 2009 I researched the relationship between gastronomic scenes in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century French literature and the local cuisine of the hometowns of the authors who wrote about food. I read Émile Zola, Gustave Flaubert, Guy de Maupassant, Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette, and Marcel Proust, and traveled to and ate in their hometowns in Normandy, Burgundy, and the center of France. My experience allowed me to investigate the connections between food and literature, and thus, to enhance my passions for these two aspects of French culture. The Fellowship allowed me the freedom to concentrate, for an extended period, on an essential link between the world and the work of the author. Upon returning to the United States and Smith College I am delighted to take the added depth and breadth of my experience to help me gain greater insight into French literature and culture.

*One Graffito/Two Graffiti*  
*Zoe Litsios '10*  
*Blumberg Fellowship*

In the summer of 2009, after studying abroad in Florence, I conducted a self-designed study entitled One Graffito/Two Graffiti as a recipient of the Blumberg Fellowship for international study. Awarded to Smith students studying abroad, the Blumberg Fellowship allows students to pursue an independent study of a cultural aspect of the country where they studied. My study focused on ancient and contemporary graffiti in Italian cities. I traveled to the Italian cities of Milan, Rome, Perugia, and Naples, and the archaeological sites Pompeii and Ostia Antica to view examples of graffiti and take photos as documentation. Through my study of these examples and my research of graffiti and street art movements I was able to identify the changing nature of Italian graffiti through history. I will use photos to discuss my experiences traveling and documenting the graffiti of Italy.

*Volunteering with PANAFEST 2009: My Life's First Capstone*  
*Esi Kagale Agyeman '10*  
*International Study*

During the summer of 2009 I was awarded the Smith College Class of 1983 Developing World Fund Grant, allowing me to work in Ghana for 3 months as a volunteer with the PANAFEST – a local, biennial festival promoting Pan Africanism through arts and culture in Cape Coast Ghana. I worked alongside the PANAFEST Executive Secretariat, who had been my project advisor during my fall semester in Ghana, young men and women who were unemployed, and African-American repatriates. Together we formed a cohesive team that worked to ensure that the PANAFEST materialized. My presentation will focus on how I counseled and advised those young people who were unemployed, informally observed a group of African-American repatriates, and came to understand the challenges that organizations like PANAFEST experience in executing such an involved activity. In my conclusion I will explain how each experience has come together in directing me more definitively to my life's purpose.

## **PANEL V: Peace/Development Studies**

**CC 205**

***Moderator: Maureen Mahoney, Dean of the College***

*Peace-building and Environmental Justice in Israel and Palestine*  
*Hannah Belsky '10*  
*International Study*

In the fall of 2008, I studied for 4 months at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, a peace-building and environmental studies program located on a kibbutz in Israel. Along with 30 students from Israel, Palestine, Jordan, and the United States, I examined the interplay between peace and environmental sustainability. I was inspired by the mantra, "The environment knows no borders," which reflects the reality that air and water do not abide by national borders and, consequently, environmental solutions require cross-border cooperation. I am always interested in building friendships and exchanging stories across religious, national, and ethnic borders to overcome difference and grow mutual understanding and compassion. The final weeks of my time in Israel coincided with the devastating war in Gaza. During that time, I experienced the war through my friends' stories and emotions. When I returned to Smith, I translated my experiences abroad into a

passion for peace-building and conflict resolution and took courses that would help me understand conflict and its relation to economics, environmental injustice, and gender.

*Rebuilding Hope*  
*Sarah Perkins '11*  
*Research/Travel Abroad*

In Mwanza Tanzania, I worked with women leaving correctional facilities and with HIV/AIDS orphans. I taught business economic classes with a service learning component planting trees, and developed a business plan for selling produce. I designed a sustainable economic curriculum and created a business plan that uses microfinance tools and organic farming. The goal was to establish a plan for self-sustaining peace for women leaving correctional facilities and for local women entrepreneurs. With these classes and projects, I facilitated seminars and workshops for working mothers on finances and basic investment strategies, which instructed them on issues of nutrition, education and wellness. Many of the local women entrepreneurs were introduced to basic accounting and bookkeeping skills, demonstrating how to apply concepts of saving and reinvesting in their business.

*May The Grass Grow Tall*  
*Kaitlin Hodge '12*  
*International Study*

As a Smith Global STRIDE Scholar, I spent six weeks in 2009 studying in Uganda and Rwanda through the School for International Training Summer Program on Peace and Conflict Studies in the Lake Victoria Basin. My studies focused primarily on the twenty-year conflict in Northern Uganda with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the 1994 Rwandan Genocide against Tutsis and moderate Hutu. The program also featured two homestay experiences, through which I lived with a family in each of the conflict epicenters – Gulu and Kigali. On a typical day, I attended two or three lectures by local professors, professionals, leaders, and officials. I also participated in regular field excursions to camps and villages where I met with subgroups to learn about their particular concerns. I will talk about the major concepts I was exposed to in my study of conflict in the Great Lakes region of Africa, including but not limited to traditional justice, reconciliation, and the role of post-conflict governments. I will also highlight my lingering questions and concerns as I attempt to reflect on and share my experiences with others.

## **PANEL VI: Medicine/Health**

### **CC Carroll Room**

*Moderator: Lisa Chappell, Assistant Dean for International Study*

*The Adventure with Traditional Chinese Medicine in Beijing*  
*Luisa Tsang '10*  
*International Study*

I spent the spring of 2009 in Beijing, completing an independent study project focusing on Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). My project allowed me to interview a variety of Chinese patients in three different major hospitals and one rural village clinic. In addition to interviewing patients, I spoke with practitioners of TCM and experienced TCM procedures, such as acupuncture and massage therapy. To successfully complete my project, I interned at a TCM clinic once a week practicing TCM healing techniques on patients and observed the regular functioning of a typical hospital. My work resulted in two end-product papers: *TCM Approach: The Effects of Emotions on Headache* and *Rural Health Access: Understanding the Healthcare System in Cibeiyu Village*. I will discuss my experience learning about TCM and how people in Beijing incorporate the practice into their daily lives, show some photos, and discuss my observations on the impact of western medicine on the future course of TCM.

*Shadowing Medical Consultants in a Nigerian Hospital*  
*Adeola Awodele '11*  
*Praxis/Internship*

During the summer of 2009, I did an internship at Garki Hospital, Abuja, which is the first hospital in Nigeria to participate in the privatizing of government-owned hospitals. For five weeks, I shadowed medical consultants in five departments: internal medicine, general medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology and pediatrics. This internship afforded me the opportunity to see the daily lives of these different medical personnel. It also permitted me to talk with the doctors in order to widen my knowledge about the health field in Nigeria and the various opportunities available to contribute to it, especially to the public health sector. These conversations helped me to better understand the impact and limitations of a medical degree on my career aspirations. In this presentation, I want to share my acquired knowledge of the varied aspects of public health, the limitations affecting public health in developing nations and the need for diverse skills in combating the various problems and challenges of the health sector.

*Fundación Padre Damian  
Catherine Castillo '10  
Praxis/International*

This past summer, I volunteered with Fundación Padre Damian, a non-profit organization in Guayaquil, Ecuador. For two months, I rotated through different sections of the foundation to assist in various tasks but mostly to get to know the people who suffer from Hansen's disease and thus experience the humanity of the disease. The rewarding outcome of my service project has driven me to further pursue my interest in a yearlong service project abroad, most likely with Fundación Padre Damian, and my intention to attend medical school.