Welcoming Remarks

By Xiangming Chen

The Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS) at Trinity has just completed its Senior Year with the Class of 2011. As it enters its fifth year, the Center is ready to play a more active and effective role in advancing Trinity’s urban and global educational mission, sustaining strong existing programming and launching new initiatives and events. In this issue of the Newsletter, we provide a balanced picture of where we are and what is in store for this year.

First of all, we have become the home office for Garth Myers, the newly arrived Raether Distinguished Professor of Urban International Studies. Myers is an urban geographer, with teaching interests in urban studies courses generally and an emphasis on cities in Africa, and research interests in the historical-cultural geography of British colonialism in Eastern and Southern African cities, urban political geography, urban land and environmental governance, and the intersection of urban political ecology and socio-environmental justice. Drawing from his new book *African Cities: Alternative Visions of Urban Theory and Practice*, Professor Myers’ essay offers a refreshing view on why and how African cities matter to urban studies.

We are introducing both the new Assistant Director of International Programs, Brandon Lussier, and the new Visiting Scholar, Fakhmiddin Fazilov from Uzbekistan, as well as three new student workers at the Center. We are announcing the new CLI Community Fellows initiative and the record number of new international and exchange students. We are hosting the faculty reading group supported by the Luce Foundation grant for strengthening the Asian Studies and Environmental Science programs at Trinity. Finally, we are launching a new lecture series combining the faculty lectures of the World Cities series with the student presentations of the Vantage Point Series and calling it “Global Vantage Point Series.” We hope to see many of you at our events at 70 Vernon.
Sub-Saharan Africa remains the world’s least urbanized region. In general, its cities typically rank among the poorest and least industrialized urban areas on earth. Yet for much of the last half-century, the region has been the world’s most rapidly urbanizing one. For many observers, Africa’s cities seem to challenge conventional understanding of the connectivity between industrialization and urbanization, since the contemporary era’s high rates of urbanization have not accompanied comparable rates of urban growth.

For these and other reasons, cities in Africa have been understudied and disregarded in the wider literature of urban studies. Since Africa’s cities are only minor recipients of global foreign direct investment flows or bit players in international trade, they show up only on the fringes of diagrams of world-cities or global cities. When African cities do gain attention in urban studies, it is often for their supposed exceptionalism or their means for modeling dystopias. The end-game cities for globalization, the cities off the map of world importance, the headquarters of the planet of slums, the world-capital-of-things-gone-to-hell – these are stock phrases and stereotypes by which even urban studies scholars (to say nothing of the western media) approach African urbanism.

There are several reasons why I believe this to be the moment for broader recognition for the importance of cities in Africa for the urban story of the world. The first is the recognition that in their divergence from expected patterns African cities may not, in fact, be abnormal, backward, or nightmarish: they may be presenting the world with entirely new and different ways to be urban. These new and vibrant ways of citiness appear (perhaps somewhat idealistically) in the sort of “Afropolis” that Mbembe and Sarah Nuttall envision in Johannesburg, for example, the “blackness” Simone sees as means for creative, innovative survival tactics in Dakar, or the “invisible” and “spectacular” absurdities that somehow work in contemporary Kinshasa to de Boeck.

The second reason, paradoxically, may lie in the dramatic diversity of urban experiences on the continent. Despite regional integration and cooperation, and despite scholarly institutional reification of Africa, it is increasingly evident that patterns and processes for urban change vary dramatically across Africa. Truisms once held firmly in common – that Africa’s cities are growing very rapidly, that they are growing in the absence of economic growth, that informalization has taken over everything, that urban governance reform has failed – now seem to look rather different depending on the city or country. Zimbabwe’s cities may be losing population to the countryside or to out-migration, while Ghana’s cities are growing precisely in tandem with steady economic growth. There is certainly great cause for robust comparative urban studies on the continent; but there are fewer and fewer reasons to set aside “African” cities in a box of their own, as a sort of circus oddity for urbanists.

A third reason is one that I approach with a dose of cynicism: security. There is no doubt that global media attention to Africa’s cities has grown in direct proportion to the global war on terror and stories like the so-called “Arab Spring” events in 2011 in Tunis, Cairo, Alexandria, Benghazi, Tripoli, and elsewhere. The violence of Africa’s cities is central to the dystopian stereotypes of many observers. This carries over uncomfortably into scholarship – for instance, in the increasing research agenda (and funding base) around urban security questions in Africa. There is no question that violence and insecurity are important features of everyday experience for city dwellers in many of the continent’s urban areas, whether we are talking about violent crime in South African cities, the recently concluded urban civil war in Abidjan, or the urbicide in Mogadishu. I just wish as much attention flowed to the striking patterns of non-violence common to as many African cities. Why, for example, did urban Zanzibaris NOT revolt and take to the streets in massive numbers after suffering through months on end without electricity? Why do deeply contested party politics in Lusaka NOT lead to the kind of urban electoral violence seen in Nairobi in December 2007-January 2008? Thus, while security issues may provide good reasons for increased scholarship on urban Africa and for increased attention to that scholarship, there are deeper and more complicated questions in this arena that await that broader attention.

Fourth, and finally, the increasing impacts of diasporic politics, transnationality and cosmopolitanism demand greater attention to cities in Africa. No solution to the long civil war in Somalia seems possible without the input of the millions of Somalis abroad, a great many of whom live in fairly unexpected secondary cities around the world like Helsinki or Minneapolis. At the same time, Somalis or other Africans abroad totally transform those new settings: the Eid-ul-Fitr holiday celebrations at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, led by that urban area’s massive Somali population (to say nothing of the Mall’s massive numbers of Somali staff), have certainly changed that mall forever, as did Minneapolis’s election of the first Muslim member of Congress, a direct result of the city’s Somali-American population’s voting prowess. It is harder and harder to disregard Africa’s cities when cities in Europe, Asia, or the US – cities like Hartford, pointedly – increasingly have so much socio-cultural, political, and even economic interaction with Africa’s cities.
OIP STAFF NEWS
By Lisa Sapolis

There are new and exciting things happening at the OIP. First, we would like to bid a fond farewell to Jason Fenner, who left the OIP this summer and has moved to Boston. He is now Director of Business Development for Abroad101, a company that handles study abroad evaluations. Brandon Lussier has come aboard to fulfill the role of Assistant Director of International Programs.

Second, the OIP is working with faculty to develop exciting new summer programs abroad! For summer 2012, the China summer program will be broadened to include visits to cities in Southeast Asia. A new program is being planned that will focus on the city in Berlin, and a program designed for IDP students in Italy is in the planning stages. In addition, there are multiple 3 week and 6 week summer options at Trinity’s Rome Campus, as well as programs offered in Barcelona, Montevideo, and Accra (Israel). For more information and updates, contact Michelle Kollen, Summer Study Away Advisor.

OIP’S NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS: BRANDON LUSSIER

We are pleased to welcome Brandon Lussier who has joined the OIP team as the new Assistant Director of International Programs. Brandon is a former Fulbright scholar and current NEA fellow for literary translation. He has studied at Kings College, London, spent his Fulbright year translating literature in Estonia, and received an MFA in creative writing and literary translation from San Diego State University. He was, for four years, Assistant Director of International Programs at Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where he also taught global studies and creative writing courses. He has spoken about study abroad best practices at the Association of International Educators conference and about literary translation at Princeton University and the American Literary Translators’ Association. In addition to his work in International Programs at Trinity, he continues to write, translate, and publish poetry with recent publications in the Harvard Review, The Columbia Review, and elsewhere. He is co-authoring the introduction to an anthology of Estonian poetry to be published by the University of New Orleans Press in 2012. Brandon is working with Trinity’s Rome Campus and other programs in Italy, as well as programs in England and Japan. In addition, he is overseeing the web and technology for the office, as well as handling statistical reports.

OIP FALL EVENTS

Study Away Fair: Don’t miss the biggest OIP event of the year—the annual Study Away Fair will be held on Wednesday, October 12, from 4-7 p.m. in the Washington Room, Mather Hall. Come join program representatives, returned students, Trinity faculty, and OIP staff to explore over 90 domestic and international study away options in over 40 countries for summer, semester, and year! Food and refreshments will be provided.

Semester/Year Study Away: Students who wish to study away in 2012-2013 must attend a mandatory Study Away Information Session. Dates, times, and locations of sessions are available on the OIP website. All students must submit an online application for Approval to Study Away by December 2nd for semester or full year study in 2012-2013. Note that in addition to Trinity-run programs in Barcelona, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, New York, Paris, Rome, Trinidad, and Vienna, a new program in Shanghai will begin in fall 2012.

Visit us online at: http://www.trincoll.edu/UrbanGlobal/StudyAway/Pages/
The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) officially moved and established itself on the 3rd floor of the Center last January. With a part-time staff member and student worker, the office has grown its services and programs to accommodate the growth of international students at Trinity.

Trinity’s international student and scholar population has steadily grown over the past 4 years and now represents 56 countries from around the world adding to Trinity’s global community. New levels of international students were reached in 2011, with almost 10% of the class of 2015 comprised of international students. As part of the Center’s goal to promote a diverse learning environment, the OISS provides essential services on immigration support and cultural programming for this growing population which has included distinguished scholars from Argentina, China, Zimbabwe, Iran and Uzbekistan.

MEET OUR VISITING IIE SCHOLAR:

Fakhmiddin Fazilov

Fakhmiddin Fazilov is the third Rescue Scholar hosted by the Center for Urban and Global Studies at Trinity. He received his Bachelor’s Diploma with Honors in Regional Economics (Middle East countries’ economies) from Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies in 1999 and his Master’s Diploma in World Economy and International Economic Relations in 2001 from the same institute. In 2001-2002, he worked as a lecturer at Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies where he taught Middle Eastern Economies, International Economics, the Central Asian Economies and Economic Growth courses to undergraduate students. In 2002-2005, he worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. In 2007, he became a full time Lecturer in the Department of International Relations and Economics at Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies. In January 2009, he completed a dissertation in the specialization of World Economy and International Economic Relations at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. He is planning to pursue research on economic policy and food security in Central Asia and teach the Central Asian Economies course at Trinity in spring 2012.
Community Learning Initiative

By Anne Lundberg

In Fall 2011, the Community Learning Initiative is launching an exciting pilot program to support student community-based research. The program, called Crossing Borders: College-Community Partnerships in Research, includes a monthly research colloquium for the student participants and their faculty sponsors. The colloquium provides an opportunity for the exchange of ideas, faculty mentoring, and discussion of topics related to community-based work, and also serves as a forum for students to learn from one another and through this process form a community of young scholars. Designated Community Learning Research Fellows, these students will be engaged in projects growing out of CLI courses and community partnerships. Their research is designed to contribute in meaningful ways to the work of the community partner, and will be conducted as part of a course, an independent study, a thesis, or an internship. Participants are eligible to receive small research expense grants, and will present their projects at a final event in December.

Fellowships and Grants Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>October</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Via CUGS: The Davis Projects for Peace</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Check Trinity Today</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Senior Year Nomination: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Via CUGS: Grossman Fund for Global Studies Grant and Senior Thesis Prize</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Via CUGS: Levy Fund for Urban Studies Grant and Senior Thesis Prize</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Via CUGS: Tanaka Student Research Grant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Via CUGS: Technos Japan Tour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Junior Year Nomination: Beinecke Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Marshall (UK) Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mitchell (Ireland) Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rhodes Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Senior Year Nomination: Fulbright U.S. Student Scholarship Program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gates Cambridge Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Senior Year Nomination:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marshall (UK) Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mitchell (Ireland) Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rhodes Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fulbright U.S. Student Scholarship Program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gates Cambridge Scholarship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For information on Fellowships, contact Anne Lundberg, Director of Urban Programs & Fellowships, x4242

For information on Graduate Fellowships in the sciences, contact Alison Draper, Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Science, x5189

For information on CUGS Grants and Prizes, visit the Center’s website at:

http://www.trincoll.edu/UrbanGlobal/CUGS/students/Research/Pages/
TRINFO.CAFE

By Carlos Espinosa

On Saturday, September 17, 2011, Trinfo.Café hosted its 4th Annual Back to School Community BBQ in collaboration with the Men of Color Alliance student group and celebrated a new mural painted by students from the Hartford Magnet Middle School (HMMS) as part of The Big Read, a National Endowment for the Arts funded reading enrichment program. Professor Lucy Ferris spearheaded The Big Read effort on campus and Trinfo provided web space for Trinity students to promote the dozens of activities relating to The Big Read. Over 100 Trinity College students, along with dozens of neighborhood families enjoyed a beautiful Fall afternoon packed with food, music, and performances. Trinity student organizations hosted information tables and performed a step show, while dozens of neighborhood kids bounced away on an inflatable castle. The event highlights Trinfo. Cafe’s transformation away from its narrow beginnings as a computing center for the neighborhood, into a community space that is truly a bridge linking the campus and neighborhood.

Beyond bridging physical spaces, the center also bridges community development programming and academics where Trinity students are develop computer literacy curricula and tech-based programs for youth; teach at Trinfo and in the community as well as in English, Spanish, and when available Portuguese; and conduct research through independent studies, internships, and community learning classes. Trinfo staff also work directly with faculty on enrichment programs like The Big Read, as well as opportunities for academic support with community learning classes like Hispanic Hartford in the Hispanic Studies department.

If you are interested in learning more about Trinfo.Cafe and its wide ranging activities, please contact YukShan Li at 860-297-4238 or visit our site at www.trinfocafe.org.

The Office of Community Relations

By Jason Rojas

The Office of Community Relations runs the Trinity College United Way Community Campaign which will run September 28th to October 28th. The United Way Campaign is one way in which our campus community can work together to provide support for people in Hartford and in our home communities. Contributions from our campus community help the United Way and its community partners in fulfilling their missions to provide critical services that families from all walks of life count on. Your gift to United Way Community Investment helps to provide the building blocks of a good life for everyone in our region: a quality education that leads to a stable job, income that can support a family through retirement, and good health. We all win when children are successful, families are financially stable and a safety net of health and human services is there for all of us. And when we pool our resources, we can accomplish so much more than any single gift or agency could alone.

♦ If one of us gives $1 more per week, one more person will learn to manage his illness or disability and live independently.
♦ If one of us gives $3 more per week, one additional lower-income adult will increase her financial stability with budget coaching and education.
♦ If one of us gives $5 more per week, seven people will improve their literacy skills so they can get and keep a good job.
♦ If one of us gives $10 more per week, one more child will meet developmental milestones so she is ready for kindergarten.

You should have received a United Way packet with all the information you need to make your donations.

For more information, contact me at Jason.rojas@trincoll.edu or 860-297-4166.
A mammoth hello from this sophomore! An international student from Chandigarh, India, Gaurav is a Political Science and Economics double major with an Urban Studies minor. At CUGS, he is hoping to successfully coordinate the Global Vantage Point Series to enable students to present their summer projects to the college community. During his freshman year, Gaurav participated in the Cities Program followed by the academic and travelling adventures of the Megacities of China Program in Summer ’11. He has received the John J. Mead Award for excellence in the study of international relations while acting as an Eda Dolittle Memorial Scholar during his freshman year. He is the secretary of the International House, member of the Fred Pfeil Community Project, First-Year Mentor, and a Quest Leader for the current year. He hopes to be a diplomat for the United Nations Organization.

Brooke Grasberger, ’12

Brook is a senior at Trinity pursuing a double major in History and English with a possible minor in Arabic. Her interest in Urban and Global Studies developed when she went on the Megacities of the Yangtze River program in June 2011, and she believes that this study will enrich her own work in History. At Trinity, she is the editor-in-chief of the 4Legs student newspaper (www.4legs.org), a tutor at the Writing Center, and an editor of Slate Literary Magazine. She is currently assisting with editing one of the Center’s books, and will work closely with the organizers of next year’s Center-sponsored 2 day conference. After graduation, she intends to pursue a graduate degree, most likely in History, and work or live abroad.

Will Kaplan, ’12

Will Kaplan, a Chicago native, graduated from The Latin School to come to Trinity College and partake in the Cities Program. He is majoring in Sociology and developing a self-designed Urban Studies major. Will has a keen interest in criminal justice, which has been furthered by his work at Chicago’s Independent Police Review Authority and Northwestern University’s Center for Wrongful Convictions. In the Trinity community, Will also acts as a Quest Outdoor Program leader and instructor.

Lorenzo Rakesh Sewanan, ’12

Lorenzo Rakesh Sewanan, a student of Physics and Engineering, lives in Queens, New York. However, he is originally from Suriname, a small country in South America, and has studied abroad in Australia and Asia. Since coming to Trinity, he has been involved in a variety of things, from neuroethology research with the electric fish Apternotus leptorhynchus to working at the writing and math centers to holding national leadership positions in the Society of Physics Students and the American Medical Student Association to representing his class on the Student Government Association. This year, he plans to focus on research and on Trinity College Without Borders, an organization he co-founded recently with Professor Emilie Dressaire and fellow student Tarah Sullivan to educate students on issues of international development and the technological solutions to poverty. At the Center for Urban and Global Studies, he helps to coordinate the Global Vantage Point Series, aimed at raising awareness, interest, and discussion around global and urban issues and activism. In the future, he wants to combine his interest in health, technology, and international development to explore and develop affordable solutions for poverty and global health issues.

Gaurav Inder S. Toor, ’14
GLOBAL VANTAGE POINT LECTURE SERIES
Presented by the Center for Urban and Global Studies

Tuesday, September 27
*Why African Cities Matter to Urban Studies*
Garth Myers, Raether Distinguished Professor of Urban and International Studies

Tuesday, October 11
*Recasting Hartford: Four Centuries of Global Flows and the Transformation of an American City*
Andrew Walsh, Associate Director of the Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life

Tuesday, October 18
*Megacities of the Yangtze River: Four Students’ Perspectives*
Scotty Eckenthal ’12, Brooke Grasberger ’12, Holly Maykow ’12, Gaurav Toor ’14

Tuesday, November 1
*Robotics Education in Nepal*
Co-Sponsored by the Engineering Department
Binay Poudel ’12,

Tuesday, November 8
*Authoritarian Hell or Workers’ Paradise: The Papal New Town and Saltworks at Cervia, Italy*
Kristin Triff, Associate Professor of Art History

Tuesday, November 15
*Japan After the Nuclear Crisis*
Jeffrey Bayliss, Associate Professor of History and Amelia Wei ’12

Tuesday, November 29
*Renovation of a Village Health Clinic in Tanzania*
African Development Coalition

CUGS ARTS COMMITTEE
CALL FOR PROPOSALS
DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2011

The Center for Urban and Global Studies (CUGS), under the direction of Dean Xiangming Chen, has provided funding to highlight creative expression that engages urban and global themes and also forges a deeper and more vital connection between the communities of Hartford and students, faculty and staff at Trinity. Although the Arts Initiative has a modest budget, it is the largest single allotment of unrestricted funds within the CUGS budget.

As a part of this process, the CUGS Arts Committee is issuing a call for a wide range of proposals that are associated with these goals. Any member of the Trinity faculty (including those retired) may submit a proposal.

For additional information, visit:
http://trincoll.edu/UrbanGlobal/CUGS/Faculty/Grants/Pages/CUGS-ARTS.aspx