

faith • reason • justice

# Spirit

THE EASTERN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

**25 YEARS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Changing Lives  
around  
the World



## President's Message



This year marks two significant anniversaries at Eastern: the 25th for our MBA program in economic development and the 10th for our School of Leadership and Development. That remarkable program and the uncommon school that houses it symbolize the distinctiveness of Eastern University. It is filled with faculty and students who understand deeply the calling in Luke 4:18. As imitators of

Jesus, their lives testify to a journey in the Spirit that is all about salvation, liberation, and transformation.

Scholar-practitioners from scores of countries have led community and economic development ventures in every part of our world. Along the way, an idea born in the minds and hearts of a few Western academics like Tony Campolo, Ron Sider and Lin Geiger has taken shape as a mature program that reflects the context in which it is taught.

We have worked with wonderful partners like World Vision International and Habitat for Humanity. We have studied as a beautifully diverse people in the very building in which apartheid was once declared the will of God. And this sacred story continues to add stanzas. The heavens are recording the numbers of people whose lives are made freer and fuller because of our labors. What a privilege to be in this vineyard!

With a grateful heart,

*David R. Black*

David R. Black

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
for He has appointed me to  
preach Good News to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim that  
captives will be released, that the blind will see,  
that the downtrodden will be freed from their oppressors..."

Luke 4:18  
(New Living Translation)

# Spirit

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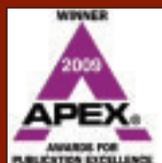
#### MISSION STATEMENT

Spirit supports the mission of Eastern University to provide a Christian higher education for those who will make a difference in the world through careers and personal service rooted in faith applied to academic disciplines. The magazine serves as a connection between the Eastern University campus community of students, faculty, staff and administration and its alumni, trustees, friends, donors, parents and neighbors.

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The Eastern University community officially welcomed three new academic deans at the Fall Convocation. Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier (left to right) is dean of Esperanza College, Eastern's junior college serving the Latino community in Philadelphia, PA; Dr. Beth Doriani is dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and Dr. Debra Heath-Thornton is dean of the Campolo College of Graduate and Professional Studies.

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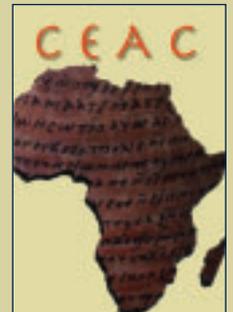
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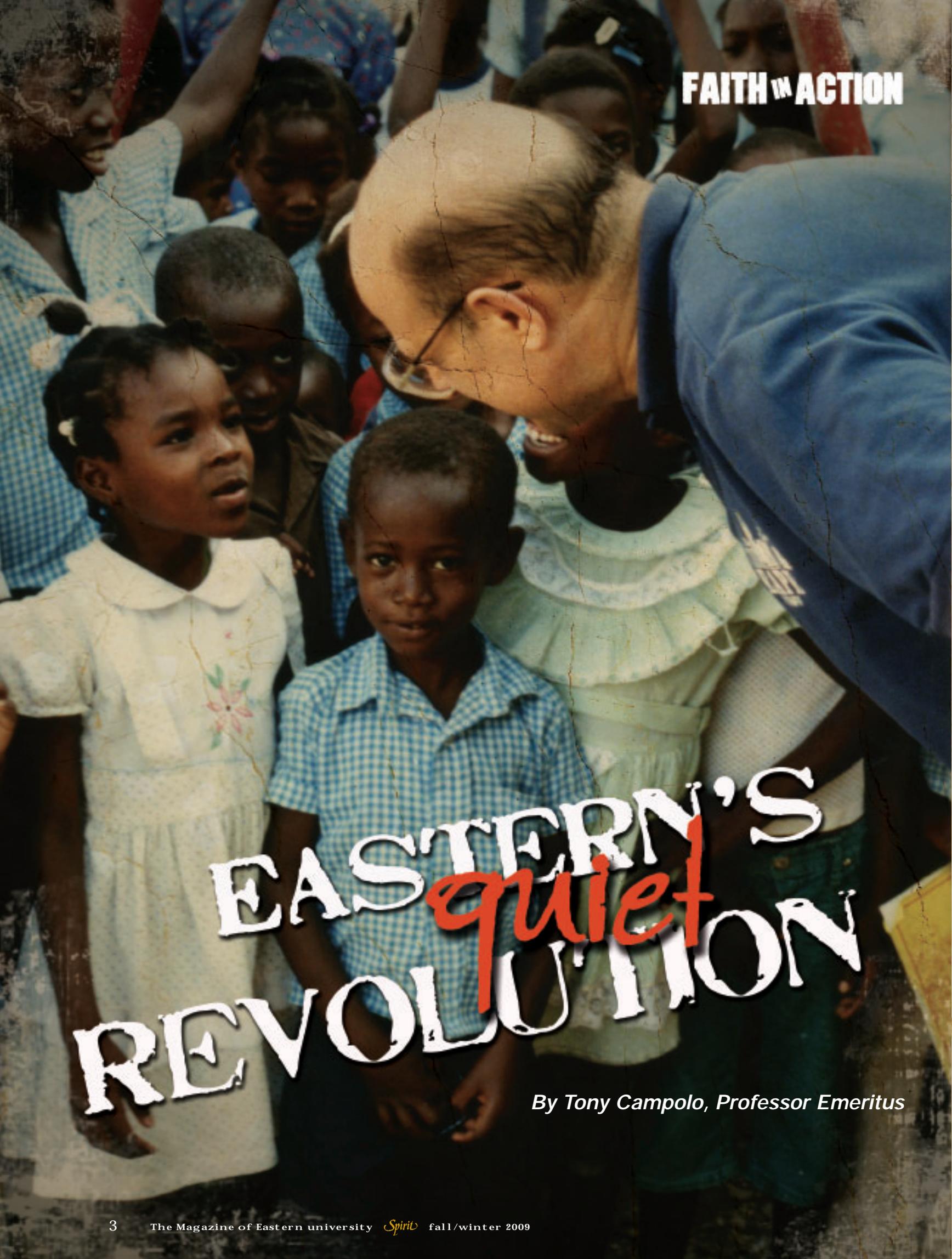
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A photograph of a man with glasses and a blue shirt leaning over a group of children in a classroom. The children are wearing blue and white checkered shirts and white dresses. The man is smiling and looking at the children. The image has a cracked, aged texture.

**FAITH <sup>IN</sup> ACTION**

# EASTERN'S *quiet* REVOLUTION

*By Tony Campolo, Professor Emeritus*

Ending world poverty is high on the Church's agenda. The book by Eastern's own Ron Sider, *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*, along with prodding by the rock star Bono, have played a major role in awakening Christians to the reality that there are more than 2000 verses of Scripture calling us to respond to those whom Jesus calls "the least of these." And the progress that the Church has made in addressing needs of the world's poor has been phenomenal.

Fifty years ago, 80% of the world's population was illiterate. Today that figure has been cut to 20%.

Twenty-five years ago, one out of every six persons on the planet had no access to safe, clean drinking water; but there has been a 100% improvement to where now only one out of 12 is faced with that problem.

Twenty-five years ago, 45,000 children a day died of either starvation or from diseases they were unable to combat due to malnutrition. Presently, that figure is down to 30,000 a day. This latter statistic is horrendous, but the fact that the situation has improved by 33% is notable.

Christians have played a major part in facilitating such improvements. It is common to hear of church groups that have mobilized teams to dig wells in third world countries. Ministries such as World Vision and Compassion International make it possible, through their child sponsorship programs and their socioeconomic

development, to bring help and hope to millions of the world's poor.

Lobbying by such faith-based ministries as Bread for the World and Christian Aid has done much to pressure governments to cancel third world debts and to move them towards fairer trade agreements with poor countries.

### Eastern's Role

In the midst of all of these positive changes, Eastern has played a very significant role through our graduate programs in third world micro-business and entrepreneurship. Twenty-five years ago, Eastern was the first university to make job creation a major part of the war on poverty. Hundreds of our graduates serving organizations like Opportunity International are now generating jobs in impoverished cities and villages around the world. More importantly, our school has become the model for many other universities that are now following suit by establishing similar programs. Even the Clinton Global Initiative has acknowledged that what we are doing here at Eastern is key to addressing the world's needs.

More than 30 years ago, an Eastern-based missionary organization, the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education ([www.eape.org](http://www.eape.org)) initiated its very first microeconomic development program in the Sudan. We realized that as much as half of all the food produced in the third world never gets eaten because of spoilage on the way to market, and because of the failure to sell the food before it rots.

Consequently, in cooperation with the Ball Corporation of Muncie, IN, we established a food processing plant in a rural district of Sudan. We knew that if we could process food and seal it in Ball jars close to where it was harvested, we could not only save that food from spoiling, but make it possible for farmers to dramatically increase their income. That processing plant also created decent paying jobs for more than a dozen Sudanese women.

What we have tried to do in all of our economic development projects is to make spiritual regeneration an integral part of what we do. This is not only because we recognize the ultimate importance of persons coming into saving relationships with Christ, but also because, as sociologists and economists like Max Weber long have known, religious experiences are incredibly important in changing the consciousness of the poor. In his book, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Weber explained that the often demoralized poor under the influence of religious conversion and spiritual nurturing can become industrious persons who handle money as good stewards of God's resources.

Without Christ at the center of Eastern's programs, we would lose our *raison d'être* and our effectiveness. It is crucial that those of us involved in this academic program continue to examine ourselves so that what we do remains focused on Christ. Otherwise, we will become just another secularized social program.

# 10 years of Leadership Graduate Education... Collaborative in Style

By Dr. Beth Birmingham '00  
Associate Professor of Leadership and Change

Soon after joining the faculty at Eastern University, Dr. Jim Engel (photo, center) met and found friendship with Eastern professor Dr. David Fraser. It wasn't long until they both realized a shared vision for developing leaders in the majority world. In the early 1990's, this concept called "leadership development" was completely foreign to most organizations. They knew that something was missing, and that western business mentality had many, many shortcomings when applied to ministries around the world.

In 1991, with the support of former Eastern University President Dr. Roberta Hestenes, Reuben Ezemadu (a great friend from Nigeria), Jim Engel and David Fraser, the Center for Organizational Excellence (COE) was established at Eastern University. The demand exceeded the resources of this small academic center and in 1998, a new organization was created to handle the large volume of international invitations. Development Associates International (DAI) was born and relocated to Colorado Springs, CO, under the leadership of Jane Overstreet. DAI's ministry continues today, serving leaders in many parts of the world ([www.daintl.org](http://www.daintl.org)).

Eastern's new president, Dr. David Black, was a catalyst for helping Eastern move to collaboratively designed graduate degrees in ministry leadership. The first of these was with Cornerstone Christian College in Cape Town, South Africa ([www.cornerstone.org.za](http://www.cornerstone.org.za)).

Dr. Alan Jansen of Cornerstone and I began the discussion to co-develop an MA in Organizational Leadership offered on the Cornerstone campus and to leaders in Southern Africa in 2000.

World Vision International ([www.wvi.org](http://www.wvi.org)) approached Eastern with a framework to develop emerging leaders in their organization. The similarities in mission and vision were striking. Together they established the Pathways to



Leadership, offering the MBA in NGO Management in 1999. The program has students from over 55 countries, 40% of whom are women, and is delivered in both English and Spanish.

In the fall of 2003, Habitat for Humanity International ([www.hfhi.org](http://www.hfhi.org)) joined forces with Eastern University and World Vision International in this unique learning journey to offer the MA in Organizational Leadership. The Pathways Program continues until its scheduled conclusion in 2010. By its end, Pathways will have served more than 400 students, representing over 70 countries.

In 2008, under the leadership of Dr. Sharon Gramby-Sobukwe, the MA in Organizational Leadership was offered for the first time in the U.S. market. Eastern now also offers the MA in Organizational Leadership in Latin America and Africa. While we have been focused on leadership development since the early 90's, this year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the creation of Eastern's MA in Organizational Leadership program.

For more information, go to [www.eastern.edu/sld](http://www.eastern.edu/sld).

## Cheers to Dr. Geiger - You Helped Me Create Over 100,000 Jobs

By William (Liam) Collins '90, CEO/Director of Aspire

I once sent the late Dr. Linwood Geiger a message giving him an estimate of the number of jobs I helped to create as a result of following his good advice. At the time it was over 100,000 people; I asked him to imagine two football stadiums full of people cheering "Thank you, Dr. Geiger!"

My story is shaped by the life, work and advice of this good friend and mentor. Dr. Linwood Geiger gave me so many opportunities including an international marketing project for the Inter-American Development Bank while I was in the MBA program at Eastern. That opened up other doors for me and I started a small business in Haiti as a result. The Creole I learned during those years helped get me a job with World Vision in Haiti years later. I became involved in microfinance when I was transferred to World Vision Azerbaijan to help

start the first microfinance project in the country in 1995. Later I worked for Opportunity International in Croatia and throughout Eastern Europe. I returned to World Vision as the regional manager for all of their microfinance companies in Europe and the Middle East, based in London.

I have been to more than 80 countries. Although most of my experience is in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, I have also worked in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and now Latin America. In 2004, I returned to the U.S. and lived in Washington, D.C., where I was the senior program manager for the Grameen Foundation.

In 2007, I started my own microfinance company, Aspire, with some colleagues in Mexico. Our focus is helping to create jobs in the micro-sector of the economy. We have offices in Guadalajara and Leon.

WILLIAM (LIAM) COLLINS '90

## EISENMENGER ADRIENNE KELLER EISENMENGER '09

## Clean Water and Beyond

By Adrienne Keller Eisenmenger '09, Missions/Project Coordinator

For the last four years, I have worked with EDGE Outreach ([www.edgeoutreach.com](http://www.edgeoutreach.com)) a nonprofit organization that tackles unsafe drinking water with sustainable solutions. Our approach involves training people from a variety of backgrounds to equip communities with water treatment systems, training in health and hygiene, and hand pump repair. My journey with EDGE has taken me to Latin America where I have seen the impact that improved water and sanitation has on a number of communities.

Although the work was challenging and life-changing, I struggled daily with questions about water rights and policies, community development problems, and a lack of advocacy for the poor. This struggle led me to Eastern University's Master's program in International Development, which integrated me into a community of faith. I have grown and developed as a professional and have expanded my worldview and my realm of service.

As my husband and I begin our lives together, we are prayerful of where God is leading us next. I am thankful for the education that I received from Eastern University and the challenge to live out God's two-fold message of mercy and love in partnership with our brothers and sisters around the world.



## Taking the Gospel to Youth in **BOTSWANA**

**MOTLADIILE**  
**BAATWENG BIGGIE MOTLADIILE '08**

By Baatweng Biggie Motladiile '08  
I am a State Registered Nurse from Botswana, in the center of Southern Africa. I was progressing in this career when I started to experience God's calling to Christian service. So I surrendered my career prospects for a full-time ministry at Scripture Union, an evangelical Christian movement whose mandate is to take the Gospel to young people and disciple them for Christian service in the church and community. My initial years with Scripture Union were quite exciting as I courageously soldiered on.

It was not long before I felt like I had been thrown into the deep, and was challenged by the multidisciplinary demands of the new field. This was complicated by the

fact that my family and work demands could not allow me the opportunity to take a long-term program away from home. I needed a training program with a multidisciplinary approach, with both family and work flexibility.

My contact with Eastern University started with the connection by a friend to Cornerstone College, which introduced me to Eastern's first cohort in Capetown, South Africa. The MA in Organizational Leadership was timely and I could see that its content was what I desired for both ministry and professional advancement. The program gave me the leadership and management skills I needed to efficiently run the organization.

We were able to come up with a strategic plan, and procedures for human and financial resources management. I will forever be grateful to Eastern University for coming up with such a program as well as the scholarship package which enabled us to go through the course, and the beauty of establishing sound and lasting relationships with both classmates and faculty. I am confident that Eastern has prepared me to face the future without any fear.

# Faith and Work in NIGERIA

By Ebere Nathan Eze '09, Director

I am the Director of Associates (Graduates Ministry) for Nigeria Fellowship of Evangelical Students (NIFES). My work with graduates is to help them to gain a biblical view of work as a calling to serve and to glorify God. The unbiblical view of the 'sacred – secular split' has long weakened the witness of Christians in our country. My organization is working to respond to this trend by engaging our graduates biblically to integrate their faith into their life and careers, thereby building a witnessing community of Christians who are well informed and responsible citizens.

My participation in SLD's program at Eastern University was a timely preparation for me to effectively discharge my duties. I rediscovered the relevance of the Christian faith to all of life's issues – economics, politics, culture, development and justice. I was amazed at the discovery of the potency of the Christian faith in transforming not only the human soul, but all of life's issues.

EBERE NATHAN EZE '09

# Transforming Lives in UGANDA

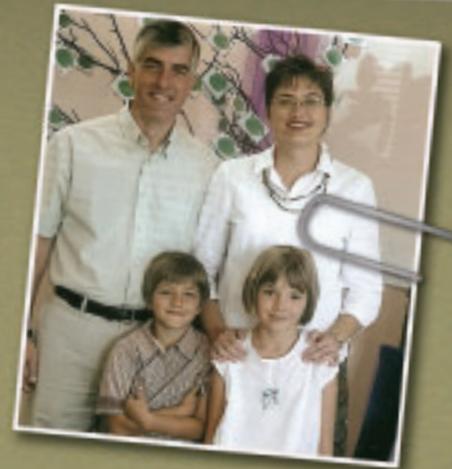
By Timothy Specht '04

In 1999, my wife Joanne and I had been living on Bushara Island in Southwestern Uganda for about two years when we started to question the development methods we were using. My background was in economics and marketing, and I thought these skills could be used to assist rural communities to create systems that meet their needs.

I wanted to share Christ's love and bring His transforming power to these communities. Business solutions were key, but when we looked around the community, we saw many failed business projects. They failed because people's attitudes were not being transformed. We knew that only God could bring the kind of changed lives that would have the long-term benefits we wanted for our friends.

A friend had told me about Eastern University's economic development program, and in 2003 I was accepted. **Professor Samuel Escobar really helped solidify my understanding of the Gospel's transforming power to affect economic and social decisions.** By allowing the power of the Gospel to transform lives and then introduce business solutions to meet their needs, healthy communities develop.

Africa Community Technical Service (ACTS) asked us to return to East Africa in 2007. ACTS has been a Christian agency for over 30 years, delivering safe water, health and agricultural education, but now we are moving toward a transformational model that puts God at the center of the work. Discipleship



training is carried out with the church leaders in our project and then the work is taken deeper into the community. Now we are witnessing divided communities developing a new peace. It has been an honor for Joanne and me to be part of God's work in Uganda, and now our two children are asking questions about how they can serve when they grow up. God's transforming work never ends.

TIMOTHY SPECHT '04

## Bringing Hope to the CONGO

By Mikhal Hagstrom '08, National Finance Manager, Hope International (photo, right)

In the Hope Congo program in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, I work with all things finance - cash management, internal controls, complying with regulations, setting up banking software, the hiring of accounting staff, reporting and budgeting.

The SLD program equipped me with both the skills and the confidence I need to participate in strategic planning, senior management team meetings, and meetings with managers at Congo's Central Bank. It helped me to better understand my own strengths and weaknesses, and taught me trusted methods of analysis and evaluation. What I

appreciated most of all is that the program did not separate God out as a specific "portion" of our study, or refer to Him as a future "portion" of our work, rather as the all-encompassing God. He is over all and in all. That was evident in the words and actions of each professor, and it helped me understand that God works through the passions He has given me, not just among them.

Hope is a Christian organization that focuses on alleviating spiritual and physical poverty through microenterprise development, offering small loans at fair interest rates to those trapped in a cycle of poverty. This affords Hope's clients an opportunity to start or expand their business — and thereby earn enough to feed their families, send their children to school, save for the future, and give back to their communities.



HAGSTROM  
MIKHAL HAGSTROM '08

Conklin, Brian and Dawn

Aid for  
UGANDA

CONKLIN  
BRIAN CONKLIN '94  
DAWN CONKLIN '95

*BRIAN CONKLIN* is a Foreign Service officer working for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Uganda. He is working with a variety of agencies and others to shape policies and programs that address regional food insecurity, halve poverty and raise incomes of the poorest of the poor, and support overall economic growth of the

## Teaching in SOUTH AFRICA



LAWLER  
CLIVE EUGENE LAWLER '08

By Clive Eugene Lawler '08

I am an adjunct professor in Intercultural Communication for Azusa Pacific International Abroad Programme, and a trainer and facilitator for Heartlines, a values-based curriculum for restoring Godly values back into society. In addition, I am a trainer for Crown Financial Ministries and run a consultancy

called GROSKIL Developments that conducts vocational and educational assessments for students and corporations. I am also a faculty member of the Haggai Institute based in Hawaii and Singapore.

Eastern's program helped to bring balance to the wide experience that I already had and has assisted me tremendously in the work that I do with NGOs and com-

panies. As a result of the SLD program, my spiritual walk was deepened and my academic knowledge was further developed. I have been able to mentor many Christian leaders through intense, intimate, transparent, caring and Godly relationships that have produced Godly, humble and effective servant leaders.

I recently served as the director of the Foxfile Youth Programme of African Enterprise, helping to set up the African Enterprise Leadership Training Centre in South Africa to equip leaders to transform Africa.

See more at [www.leadership.aeinternational.org](http://www.leadership.aeinternational.org).

country. Brian arrived in Uganda a year ago after completing a tour with an embedded provincial reconstruction team northwest of Baghdad, Iraq. While in Iraq he worked to re-establish the agriculture sector in support of local farmers, built a number of schools, medical clinics, and new markets, and a microfinance institution to jump-start local economic develop-

ment. He has served in Southern Africa and Eastern Europe with USAID, and worked with Mennonite Central Committee in Bangladesh.

*DAWN CONKLIN* is a grants coordinator with the U.S. Embassy in Kampala, Uganda, where she travels throughout the country and mentors grassroots organizations serving marginalized people. The grants are used for small business

development or for improving the lives of patients and children affected by HIV and AIDS. Dawn is active in the school their three children attend and leads workshops on bullying, conflict resolution and communication. After graduating from Eastern, Dawn has also been involved in development work in the U.S., Bangladesh, Ukraine, and South Africa. \*

# GOWENSMITH

Debbie Gowensmith '02

## Environmental Stewardship in HAWAII

By Debbie Gowensmith MS '02,  
Director of Hawai'i Community  
Stewardship Network

The Hawai'i Community Stewardship Network (HCSN) empowers Hawaii's communities to improve their quality of life through caring for their environmental heritage. Our work combines cultural, social, and ecological restoration in a place known for its stunning beauty.

The story most people don't know about is the social, cultural, and ecological devastation wrought by Western influence. Hawaiian culture is intertwined with the land and sea, but Hawaii has more endangered species than anywhere else in the U.S. In a place where most native people still depend on the sea for food, fisheries are collapsing largely due to unchecked coastal development and overfishing. Hawaiians are losing agricultural land to offshore corporations building resorts and luxury housing developments.

HCSN combines community organizing, the collection and utilization of traditional Hawaiian

resource management practices, education, and networking so that communities can access the resources they need to reverse ecological damage in socially and culturally meaningful ways. Through our work, we are helping to ensure that socially strong, culturally intact communities will have the environmental resources they need to thrive in the future.

Before I started graduate school, I knew I wanted to work with local people to save coral reefs. I had no idea how to go about doing that. The first class I took at Eastern was Community Organizing with Robert Linthicum. That course changed my life and influenced all of my work with communities here in Hawaii and before that in Indonesia, South Africa and Belize. I have been able to use pearls of wisdom from every class I took at Eastern. The work I did in the urban concentration of the Economic Development program heavily influences the way I approach a community, analyze its resources, and set up community-driven research projects.

## Building the Kingdom through Education...

By Betty Glover Palmer '88

Eastern University not only equipped me well for practicing urban development, but also to create a vehicle to train others to transform urban communities. I will always be grateful to Professors Van Weigel and John Stapleford for their professionalism and personal touch.

Upon completion of my internship, I served as founding administrator for the Greenforest Christian Academy in Decatur, GA. Then I was called to the field where I led the economic development arm of FCS Urban Ministries in Atlanta, GA. I launched B.G. Palmer Economic Development Training, providing technical assistance and training to ministries and nonprofits.

For six years, I served as professor and chair for the Department of Urban Studies at Beulah Heights University, near Atlanta, GA, where I developed a Bachelor of Arts in Community and International Economic Development. I was voted Professor of the Year for 2009. I plan to pursue certification as a Life Coach. This will give me yet another opportunity to give back and influence lives for the Kingdom.



**PALMER**  
BETTY GLOVER PALMER '88

## ... and through Writing

By Denise Tucker '09

It took a year before I chose Eastern University for my Master's in Organizational Leadership. My deciding factor was the study abroad program in Cape Town, South Africa. I attended my undergraduate school in Ghana, West Africa, and wanted to explore more of my African roots. I am glad I chose Eastern because it played a significant role in the way I approach my ministries, my advocacy, and my view on wise spiritual leadership in an ever-changing, multicultural world.

After graduation, I moved from Philadelphia, PA, to the DC/MD/VA area where I landed a job as a course administrator at Learning Tree International, the leading worldwide provider of management and IT training.

I have written several books, Preparation of Spiritual Warfare, Moments of Living and 10 Things God Expects. I'm currently writing a workbook to present with these projects. My next book on Repentance is due to be published in January, 2010.



**TUCKER**  
DENISE TUCKER '09

## Urban Renewal in PHILADELPHIA

**WRIGHT**  
JAMES S. WRIGHT '06

By James S. Wright '06

In 2003, I graduated from Eastern University with a BA in Urban Studies. My undergraduate experience opened my eyes to see not only the needs of the city, but also the strengths and opportunities. It was Eastern's message of intentional urban living, social justice, and communal empowerment, all for the establishment of God's kingdom, that drew me back.

After graduating from the MBA program in 2006, my wife and I purchased a home in West Philadelphia. We both work in community development; she is a social worker and I am a commercial corridor manager with People's Emergency Center Community Development

Corporation (PECCDC), a nonprofit responsible for neighborhood revitalization and business development in West

Philadelphia. I also coordinate PECCDC's outreach efforts, building relationships with other nonprofits, capacity building for civic associations, hosting quarterly workshops, and coordinating neighborhood clean-ups.

Prior to this, I worked with New Kensington Community Development Corporation as the Real Estate Development Coordinator, implementing an affordable housing strategy that provided homes to low-income families by leveraging the sale of market rate units.

Now I am working with my church, Freedom Christian Bible Fellowship, to establish a nonprofit community development organization in the Overbrook neighborhood of Philadelphia. The mission of this organization is to improve and revitalize communities by investing in the lives of individuals so they can become financially, spiritually, and socially empowered to excel in all aspects of their lives. In addition, I am a member of the mission's ministry at Freedom, and have traveled to South Africa, the Dominican Republic, India and Malawi.

## HIGHLIGHTS RYAN HUGHES '05 EMILY YORK HUGHES '05

### Planning Communities in SEATTLE

By Ryan Hughes '05, CEO, Nexus Planning, Emily York Hughes '05 Eastern's International Economic Development program challenged me to consider communities, not only in their wider political context, but also as a dynamic system of interpersonal relationships.

Dr. Rosado's "Theology of Poverty" especially helped in my understanding of wholeness as it relates to individuals, communities and development.

It was also at Eastern where I met my wife Emily. During the program, we both challenged and inspired one another, and have committed our lives to a similar pursuit. Emily works at Kids Quest Children's Museum in Bellevue, WA, where she manages memberships and events, and is involved in the strategic planning process.

As a career, international economic development is as vast and varied as can be imagined. A master's degree, I have found, is not a ticket into the employment of my

choosing. After three years as a city planner, I was laid off due to the current economic recession. After slight irritation, I am realizing now the opportunity to pursue a dream.

Ever since Dr. Ostwald's "Social Entrepreneurship" course, my passion for building a unique business has been developing. This business would combine the elements of land-use planning, environmental stewardship, and solutions for holistic community development. It

would be a "nexus" between the physical planning of infrastructure, housing, and communities and the need for spiritual revitalization. In March, Nexus Planning Services LLC was launched as the fruition of this dream. A nexus is a connection or the center of something. We serve the needs of individuals, professionals, and communities by providing expert planning and development services.

Even after 25 years, Eastern's program is still on the cutting edge of Christian-based education.



#### FOCUS ON FAITH

By Rebecca Allen '07

I work for FOCUS (Fellowship of Christians in Universities and Schools) primarily with boarding school students, providing Christian fellowship meetings and support to students in the New England region. The program in International Development broadened my understanding of ministry and work among the nations, and that is significant for the students I see on a daily basis, my church community, and my dreams for the future.

#### Young Mothers in the Classroom

By LaKee Lowry '08

I am a Social Studies teacher for a high school in PA. This experience has allowed me to share a piece of myself with young people, allowing them to grow and take part in the mission of Christ. I recently contributed to the book "Professor, May I Bring My Baby to Class?" testimonies from young mothers, describing their trials and tribulations of completing college while battling daily motherhood issues.

#### THANKS, PROFESSORS!

By Theresa Coleman '06

I work for the City of Spring Grove, MN, where my morning commute takes me past corn fields, buffalo, dairy cattle and Amish farms. My responsibilities as city administrator include the duties of city clerk and treasurer. I thank Dr. John Stapleford for sharing his economic insight, Dr. Connie Ostwald for support of my graduate project, and Valerie Hicks Ashley for providing the support and assistance that enabled me to find direction after completion of the program.

## Beyond Borders in ALASKA

By Christian Muntean '07

I grew up in Alaska. I began my career in missions through my church and Youth With A Mission. This work took me through Mexico, Europe and the Middle East. While completing my degree in sociology at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, I met Dr. Mike Mtika. He was a challenging instructor and an inspiration to me. He played an important early role in shaping my perspective regarding community development and addressing social issues. Shortly after I completed my degree, Dr. Mtika moved to teach at Eastern University. I was curious about where he went, and that is how I was introduced to Eastern. I went on to join a Swiss NGO, called

Medair, and worked with them in Kosovo, Sudan and Kenya.

Over the years, I discovered that many leaders, particularly those in rural communities or developing countries, were quietly struggling, often under-resourced and over-worked. Many struggle deeply, wondering if they can face the tasks in front of them. Others struggle with personal challenges. Few have access to training, assistance or support that makes sense to their environment.

After my last assignment with Medair, I was hired by an Alaskan nonprofit, Beyond Borders, where I currently serve as executive director. Beyond Borders works to empower and partner with leaders to build healing communities. Most

**MUNTEAN**  
CHRISTIAN MUNTEAN '07

of our work is with the Alaska Native community. More than half of our instructors are from the communities we serve. We have adapted much of what was learned through Eastern into a leadership development program as well as organizational development consulting and conflict resolution. Our clients now include tribal organizations, government programs, churches and local nonprofits.

When I began as executive director, I felt my own inadequacy. I looked at Eastern's Web site and felt very attracted to the philosophy and approach I saw there. The MA in Organizational Leadership seemed like the right next step for me. Eastern really went to bat for

me and helped me get into one of the Africa cohorts. I'm so grateful for that opportunity. My classmates were people of such depth and experience. The instructors were excellent. It almost felt like a tailor-made program and it provided so much more than what I expected. Not only has it grounded me professionally, I was also deeply challenged and even changed spiritually as a result of the program.

I'm recently married to Marta, who is from Nome, Alaska, on the Bering Sea. She is pursuing her Master's in Social Work and works with me at Beyond Borders. We are excited about the restorative work that God is doing within the people of our state.

## Help for Minority Businesses

**KING**  
TIFFANY L. KING '04

*By Tiffany L. King '04, Project Director,  
Mid-Atlantic Small Business  
Transportation Resource Center*

The mission of the Greater Philadelphia Minority Business Strategic Alliance (GPMBSA) is to serve as an advocate in promoting the establishment and growth of minority business enterprises. Through the coordination of public and private resources into a strategic network, we help provide technical assistance, financial resources and business opportunities to disadvantaged businesses. We work with the U.S. Department of Transportation to assist small, minority, women-owned and other disadvantaged companies that want to do business with us and local transportation agencies. We work in Philadelphia and cover Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, and West Virginia. **This work offers many opportunities for encouraging people in the Lord.** I'm often told that people appreciate that I took time to talk to them and explain processes in marketing to the government. Some of our businesses have received contracts due to our assistance, so there is a direct economic impact, and we would like to see more of this in the future.

## Standing on the Pillars and Shoulders of Eastern

By Henry Waller '92

For the last 18 years, I was fortunate to work with World Vision International (WVI) pioneering economic and community development in Vietnam, Myanmar and India.

For the last three years, living in Chennai, India, I have enjoyed building city-wide transformative networks in four cities in India, addressing issues of urban poverty, and rehabilitating victims of injustice through microfinance.

My journey, finally, gets closer to what I envisioned at Eastern, setting up a Center of Excellence on Economic Development with Inclusive Growth (CEEDING) in India, with like-minded friends of Eastern, to partner with the corporate world, smaller NGOs and children, to sustain the livelihood of neglected communities. My wife, Ridling, is the principal of Women's Christian College, Chennai, and is collaborating with Eastern University to establish an MBA in Economic Development program. I continue to stand on the shoulders of the Eastern community and the pillars of Eastern teaching- Faith, Reason and Justice.



WALLER  
HENRY WALLER '92

## Working with Veterinarians in MONGOLIA

By Melissa White '07, Veterinary Education Advisor

I help write and edit curriculum to teach Mongolian veterinarians and I travel in the countryside to train herders about ways of improving livestock production. I also teach English to university students and am working with Mongolian believers to help develop Bible curriculum for home churches.

**Eastern's MBA program gave me a lot of practical skills that I now use. The most valuable thing I learned was how to integrate faith and development work.** It is so challenging to do ministry sometimes when you are being funded by the government or non-faith organizations. The work is very rewarding because teaching simple business concepts and animal husbandry lessons is bringing positive change to the whole country. Most importantly, however, is the spiritual growth that is taking place. While teaching vets and herders there are many opportunities to share the Gospel and encourage young Mongolian believers in their faith.

WHITE  
MELISSA WHITE '07

# 25 YEARS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



WISLEY  
BENJAMIN SCOTTY WISLEY '96

By Benjamin Scotty Wisley '96, Director, EduVenture Indonesia

I designed the EduVenture Program almost 14 years ago during my studies at Eastern. Most of our board of directors is made up of my fellow Eastern grads. The practicality of Eastern's education was a great help in setting up a program that has had a powerful impact on over 400 college students. Half of these are Americans and half are Indonesians. Many of these students are now working overseas.

At Eastern, I learned to read the Gospel from a different perspective than my mainline, evangelical, missionary kid background. I didn't realize how much trouble this would get me in when I tried to go back and work with these mainline organizations. At Eastern, I started to see "people development" from the Jesus model of discipleship as the most meaningful transformational work of God that I could pour my life into.

For Christians, I believe socio-economic structural change needs to be rooted in discipleship, it needs to be people-centered and not project-centered or even focused primarily on economics, health or other important parts of the puzzle. God has used EduVenture to ignite a passion for Christ, His discipleship style and wholistic development among college students.



Photo courtesy of Kristina Caldwell

## Saving Children in MYANMAR

By Jeremy Anderson '05

Burma (Myanmar) has the highest concentration of child soldiers of any country in the world—over 100,000. Because of the extreme difficulty and danger of working with child soldiers in the region, few organizations have been able to demobilize and care for these children effectively. I am blessed to work for one that is doing both.

Our founder's family has over 120 years of history in the region, which has given us an open door to these otherwise closed places. After nearly a decade of implementing economic and community development projects in the area, our organization gained sufficient trust with a local ethnic military in 2005 to negotiate the voluntary release of 30 child soldiers from their army. We now have 200 chil-

dren, and are just about to open another rescue for 30 more child soldiers later this year.

My role as the U.S. Director of Project: AK-47 ([www.ProjectAK47.com](http://www.ProjectAK47.com)) primarily focuses on developing grassroots campaigns that raise awareness and support for our projects on the ground in Burma, but runs the whole gamut of nonprofit work, including grant writing, marketing, advocacy, social entrepreneurship, and program evaluation. The time I spent in Eastern's Economic Development program (MBA track) was excellent preparation and helped me hone these and other skills, but perhaps more importantly, it gave me a grid for what makes or breaks development work overseas. Our work in Burma would be impossible if we did not have a clear understanding of how to work effectively



## Microfinance in CAMBODIA

*Paul Luchtenburg '89*  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
*AMK Microfinance Institution*  
[www.amkcambodia.com](http://www.amkcambodia.com)

Since leaving Eastern in 1989, Paul has worked in the fields of community and economic development in various contexts in 19 different countries. He has also contributed

**LUCHTENBURG**  
**PAUL LUCHTENBURG '89**

## ANDERSON

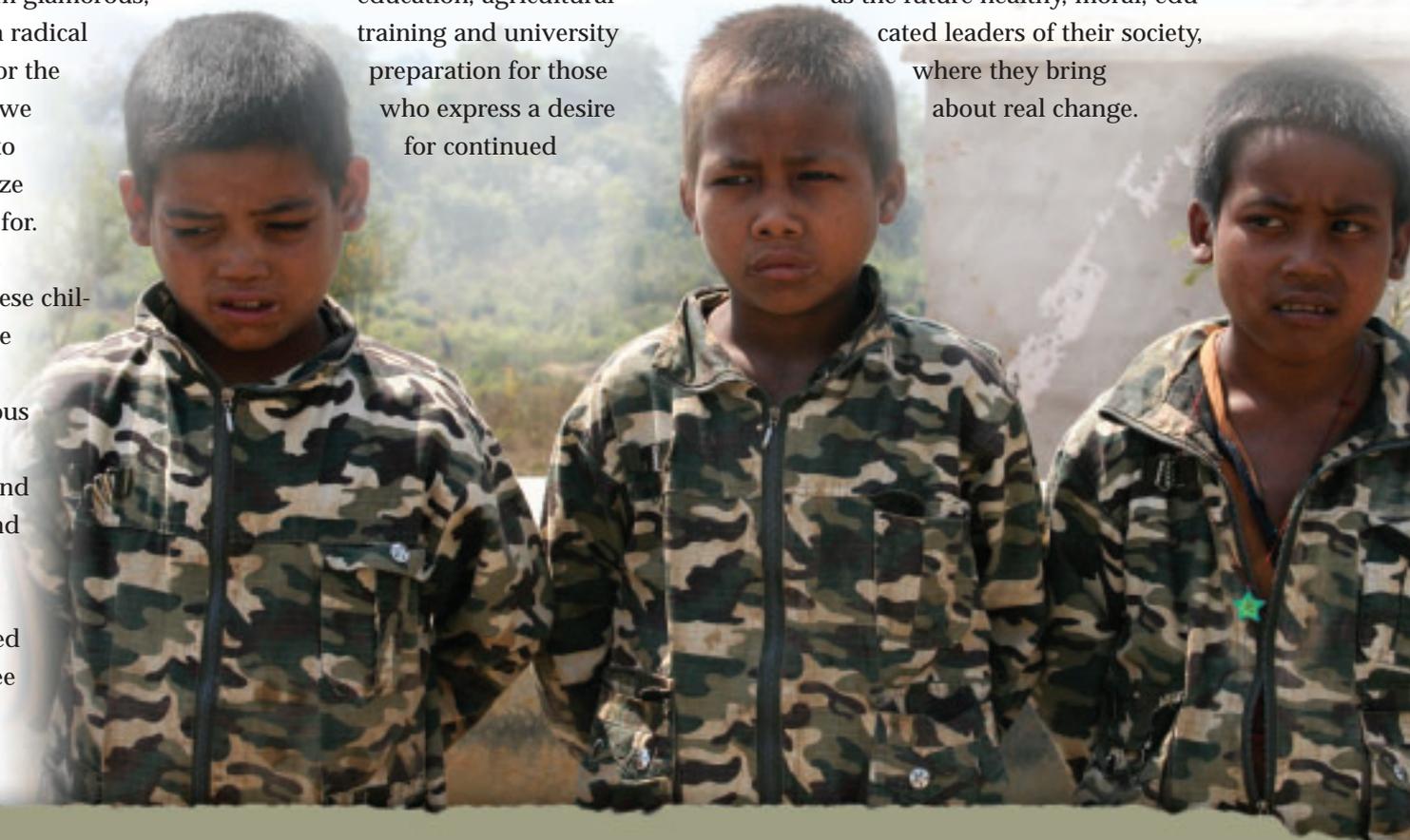
JEREMY ANDERSON '05

with several stakeholders and navigate their complex motives and needs.

Our work with child soldiers is far from glamorous, but it is a radical change for the children we are able to demobilize and care for. Needless to say, these children have suffered horrendous circumstances and abuse, and it takes years of committed care to see

them through to wholeness. In addition to basic necessities like love, food and clothing, we also provide them with high quality education, agricultural training and university preparation for those who express a desire for continued

studies. This is unheard of in these extremely remote, restricted-access areas where literacy is a mere 1%. Our vision is to raise these children as the future healthy, moral, educated leaders of their society, where they bring about real change.



to a number of different books and articles on microfinance.

Paul is executive officer for AMK, (a Cambodia-based microfinance institution) which delivers financial services to the remote rural poor and serves more than 200,000 clients with average loans of \$110. With 47 branch offices, AMK covers every province and reaches 37% of all villages in the country.

Previously, Paul worked with World Relief for 15 years. He says, **“A combination of outstanding, dedicated professors and committed dynamic classmates made my years at Eastern some of the best and most memorable of my life.** Many people from that time remain my best friends today and have been a great support professionally and spiritually over the years.

The courses helped us to wrestle with some key development and theological issues. When I get discouraged and wonder if we are having an impact, I go to one of the villages we work in and meet with people. Then I remember what my work is really all about and why I got into development in the first place.”

# Helping Women from AFGHANISTAN, CHINA, CAMBODIA and Korea

By Elisabeth A. Williams '08

Eastern's MA in Organizational Leadership suited my life as a busy mother facing two trans-Pacific moves. The program was a blend of intensive in-residence training and online discussion and coursework, and was completely grounded in biblical truth. I devoured the material and applied virtually everything to my position as curriculum coordinator at Faith Academy, a large international school for the children of missionaries. I made deep, caring, life-long friends among both the students and professors. I carry your faces and lessons in my heart.

The material I keep coming back to is from three courses: Servant Leadership, Spiritual Formation, and Marketing for NGOs. The SLD program helped me value the process as much as the product; involving all stakeholders and together coming up with solutions brings a degree of healing as well as empowerment. Real change has begun in our community. Our school started hosting teachers from Afghanistan, China, and Cambodia in 2007. The conditions these teachers and administrators work in are so challenging, because they receive almost no support from their governments. I was also invited to teach 50 Korean missionary women in leadership. Their problem was burnout – isolation, depression, shame and sickness. With prayer, I was able to coach the women in coming up with steps they could take to live more balanced, fruitful lives.

**WILLIAMS**  
ELISABETH A. WILLIAMS '08

## From the Field to the Classroom

**DR. LINDY BACKUES '93**

*Dr. Lindy Backues '93*

Lindy Backues and his wife, Donna, left for Indonesia in 1989. Their desire was to engage the local culture at varying stages and levels, learning its languages and its challenges – they felt very committed to intentional, communal, sacramental witness.

Throughout their last 10 years in Indonesia, Lindy and Donna were involved in community empowerment work in the region of West Java. In addition, as a result of his organization's response to the tsunami the day after Christmas in 2004, Lindy was also involved in relief and development work in communities along the western coast of northern Sumatra.

The Backues family relocated to South Philadelphia in 2008, where one of the largest communities of Indonesians in North America can be found. He now serves at Eastern as assistant professor of economic development, linked both to the undergraduate economic development program and the School of Leadership and Development.

# International Cooperation CAMBODIA

DAISGAARD  
JENS PETER TANG DALSGAARD '09

By Dr. Jens Peter Tang Dalsgaard '09, Director,  
International Cooperation Cambodia

I have worked in overseas development since graduating in 1991, including postings in the Philippines, Uganda, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and now Cambodia. This includes positions as a farming systems researcher for the WorldFish Center, as Adviser/Senior Adviser for the Danish Government's development agency to national agricultural research-extension-policy institutions, and recently as a Capacity Building Adviser to a group of international Christian NGOs.

Most of my time has been spent in mainstream development and it is only more recently that I

transitioned into faith-based development. The transition took place while a distance learning student in Eastern University's MBA program.

My wife, four children and I come as a package and now live in Phnom Penh. I work with a group of international NGOs called the International Cooperation Cambodia or ICC ([www.icc.org.kh](http://www.icc.org.kh)). ICC is owned by six member agencies from Denmark (my home country) Finland, Norway, Sweden, UK, and the U.S. and employs more than 150 staff. We work to support civil society development through education, literacy, community development, food security, family welfare, and leadership development. My Eastern education has come in very handy and at a good time.



## Teaching in LITHUANIA

By Lorna Qesteri '06, Professor

I teach economics at LCC International University at Klaipeda, Lithuania, to students from the former Eastern Block (Albania, Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Uzbekistan). Eastern was a place where I met many people with similar callings. The relationships started there continue to this day to be very important in terms of encouraging me in my daily work. Our classes at Eastern were a lab of learning and sharing some of the best practices in the field. The year I spent at Eastern was a time of growth both spiritually and intellectually. I felt at home and sheltered even though I was miles away from my country of origin, Albania.

I teach with a community development approach and provide many examples of how economics works on the ground level. At the end of the year, many students express the desire to get out of their comfort zone and volunteer in countries of need, which makes me really happy and gives purpose to the work I do.

**QESTERI**  
LORNA QESTERI '06

## HINDERLITER

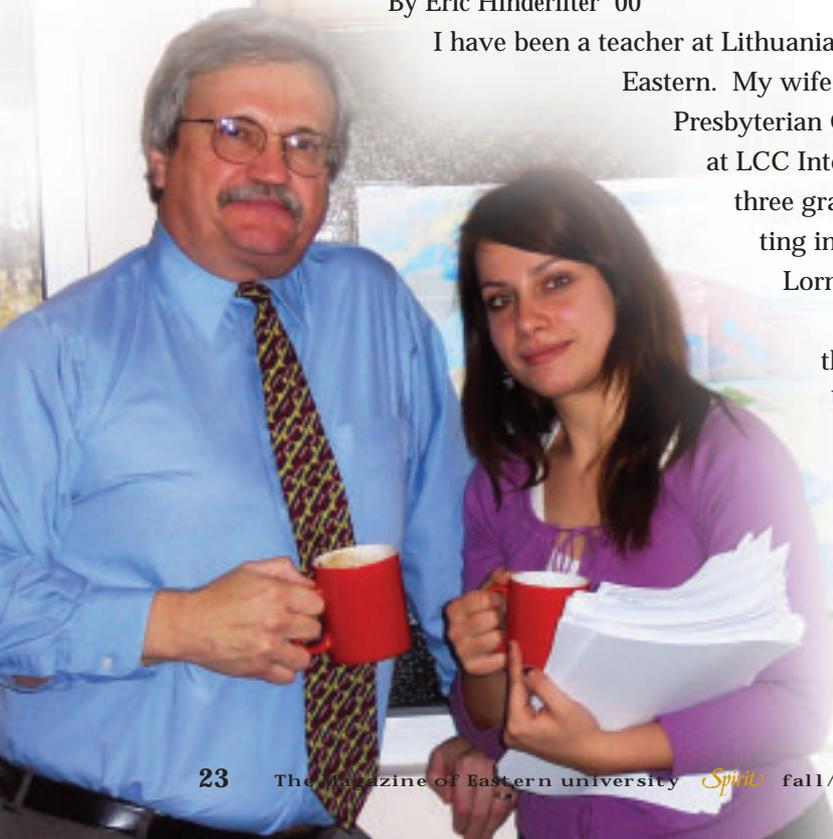
ERIC HINDERLITER '00

By Eric Hinderliter '00

I have been a teacher at Lithuania Christian College since January 2001, when I left Eastern. My wife and I are appointed as mission workers by the Presbyterian Church USA. The other day at a faculty council meeting at LCC International University in Klaipeda, Lithuania, we noticed three graduates of Eastern's economic development program sitting in a row—Lorna Qesteri, Lineta Ramoniene and myself.

Lorna was one of my student's here at LCC several years ago.

The three of us form the core of the teaching faculty in the business department, the largest major in the University. LCC seeks to train leaders infused with a passion for justice and ethical behavior in these emerging market economies. When we think of the LCC - Eastern connection we remember the wisdom and grace of the late Dr. Linwood Geiger who was instrumental in getting LCC's business program off the ground in the 1990s. This part of the world continues to be enriched by its "Eastern connection."



## Transforming Lives and Communities

By David Bronkema, Director of the International Development Graduate Programs

When Tony Campolo and others founded the original MBA program 25 years ago, they did so out of a conviction that tackling poverty was an essential aspect of the Gospel. You can call it “holistic mission,” “integral mission,” “transformational development,” or any of the other terms that are used, but the key concept was to combine the importance of evangelization, of sharing the good news of Christ, with obedience to God’s command (Galatians 2:9-10).

It was not easy going in those days for evangelicals who held to this conviction, as they faced criticism and accusations of being liberal, Marxist, and diminishing the importance of evangelization. Some of those accusations continue to this day, but thanks to their foundational work, we are seeing a revival in the evangelical world of a recognition of holding these two fundamental mandates of sharing the Good News together.

The question in the creation of the program was how to go about tackling poverty. The MBA, MS, and the MA degrees were predicated on the fact that there were tools to help Christians be more effective in understanding, analyzing, and facilitating and managing a whole array of processes of social change geared towards material welfare. There was also the importance of centering all of this through the lens of the Bible, deepening one’s own relationship and discipleship with Christ, and recognizing that for any social change to endure, the problem of sin needed to be tackled. As we look back on the last 25 years, we celebrate the fact that much of what those who founded the program were hoping for has happened.

Our graduates, more than a thousand, are working all over the world with Christian and secular development agencies, missions organizations, churches, and a host

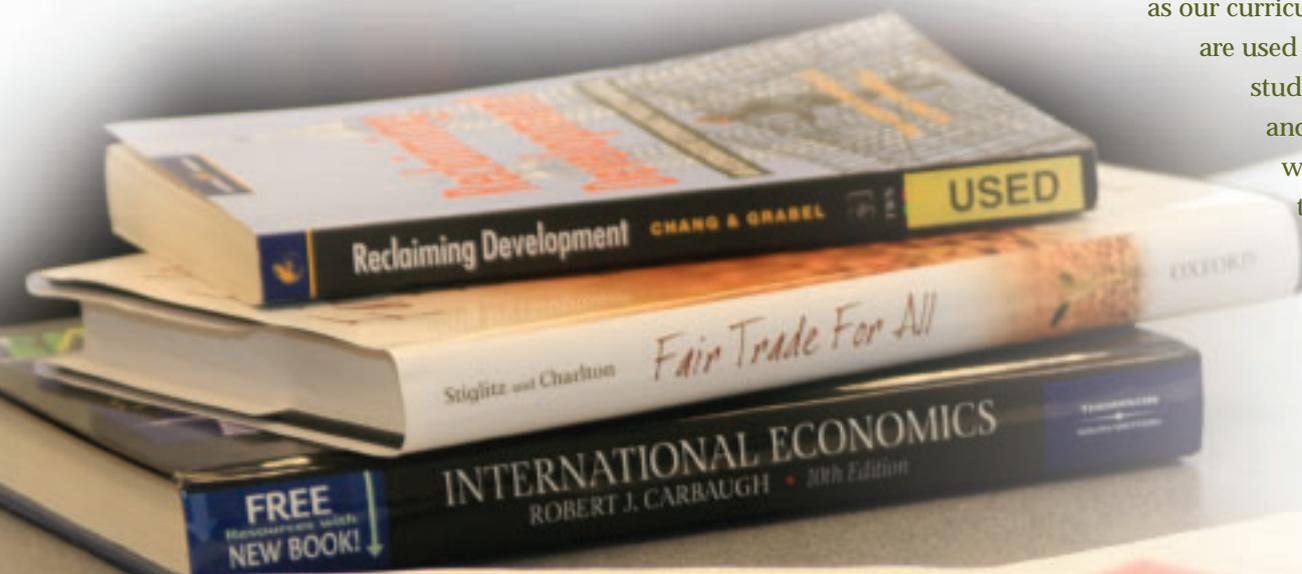
of other entities, creating jobs, and leading processes of reflection.

Drawing on a host of sources, they have created and used Christ-centered tools of critical analysis, management skills, and entrepreneurial approaches that take into account the complexities of social change and development work, that recognize the deeply political nature of development, the need to create relationships with the people affected by poverty, and to take those as the starting point for all change.

They have been effective witnesses to the saving power of Christ, and to the way that the Gospel speaks fully to the entirety of the human condition - material, relational and spiritual - and our responsibility as Christians to work in that way.

We thank God for the healthy and growing international development programs we have today at Eastern. Our prayer is that even as our curriculum and faculty

are used to help prepare students for their faithful and prayerful work with those in need, that we continue to be mindful of the ways that we are all called to strive to be even more faithful in our obedience to Him in all areas.



## EQUIPPING CHRISTIANS



### EASTERN, TABOR VICTORIA AND TEAR AUSTRALIA OFFER NEW PROGRAM

*Eastern University has collaborated with Tabor Victoria and TEAR (Transformation, Empowerment, Advocacy and Relief) to create Australia's only master's level program in applied theology with a specific focus on internal aid, development and justice ministries. The new master's program will be offered at the beginning of the 2010 academic year through Tabor College's Micah 6:8 Centre in Melbourne.*

*Thomas Ridington, senior vice president at Eastern University, (above left, with Wynand de Kock, principal of Tabor College/Victoria) says, "This program is similar to Eastern University's MA in International Development, but with an Australian accent. We permit our partners to add cultural relevancy to the program. So the program will anticipate issues of Australia and Southeast Asia, such as Aboriginal challenges, human trafficking, disaster relief and the impact of autocratic regimes on populations. The primary mandate for this initiative is not to deliver a significant monetary return to Eastern, but to expand our global footprint in a region that desperately needs what we have to offer."*

I believe this a most significant development in Australia in the field of Christian education and training for social transformation. This initiative at Tabor brings together, in an interdenominational context, organizations with successful track records as agents of social justice and transformation. The aim is to equip a new generation as agents of social change shaped by the Gospel.

#### SIX ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

The task of social transformation empowered by the Gospel is integral to the mission Jesus has entrusted to us, but it is a complex and challenging task. It involves at least six elements:

1. The spiritual and moral transformation of people by the Gospel.
2. The transformation of people's worldview.
3. The transformation of community and social relations.
4. The transformation of economic and political structures.
5. The transformation of education and health.

6. The transformation of the community's physical and technical resources – capacity building.

All these things are interconnected. The way assistance is given can help or hinder the process, and in some cases make the situation worse. In her recent book *Dead Aid* (Penguin Books, 2009) the articulate African writer Dambisa Moyo presents a challenging account of the negative results of aid to Africa, particularly inter-government aid.

#### EVANGELISM, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CULTURE

After years in pastoral ministry, one of the things that has become very clear to me is that unless you keep your foot on the pedal as a leader and teacher there are three things that drift off the local church's agenda. They are: evangelism,

## FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

By The Rev. Peter Corney OAM

(Excerpts from a talk given March 25, 2009 at the inauguration of the Center of Education and Youth Studies and the Micah 6:8 Centre for Aid and Development Studies at Tabor College in Victoria, Australia.)

social justice, and critical engagement with the culture.

What happens is that our focus has a tendency to drift inwards, probably because we are so practiced at self-interest! Our piety becomes introverted and singular, concerned only with our own relationship with God.

The opposite of this introverted spirituality is the trap that those of us with a passion for social justice sometimes fall into – working for justice in God’s world without keeping God’s love alive in our hearts. This pathway leads to spiritual anorexia, cynicism, and often such a rancorous spirit that our friends start avoiding us.

### CHRISTIANITY’S RELATIONSHIP WITH CULTURE

I would like to make some historical observations about Christianity’s relationship with culture. I have adapted categories developed by H. Richard Niebuhr as he reflected on this (Christ and Culture, 1951). Six relationships can be observed historically:

#### 1. Christianity under the culture.

Persecution under the Roman Empire in the first three centuries; the Church under Communism in Laos or China today.

#### 2. Christianity against the culture.

Where the Church is actively opposed to the dominant culture, as in the Confessing Church in Nazi Germany or the Solidarity movement backed by the Catholic Church and opposed to Communism in Poland in the 1980’s.

#### 3. Christianity over the culture.

Where the Church dominates and controls the culture, exerting power over it as in the Holy Roman Empire from the Middle Ages till the 15th Century.

#### 4. Christianity withdrawn from the culture.

Where the Church disengages and withdraws into ghettos or closed communities like the Anna Baptists in the 16th Century, the Amish in North America, or the Exclusive Brethren and some forms of Evangelical pietism today.

#### 5. Christianity absorbed by the culture.

Where the Church is seduced by the dominant culture’s values and conforms to them, adapting its values and beliefs to fit the culture. The contemporary Western Church reveals many examples of this like prosperity Gospel

teaching, or ordinary

Christians adopting the same materialism and consumerism of those around them.

Apartheid in South Africa, tribal conflict in East Africa, and the culture of violence and confrontation in Northern Ireland are all tragic examples from the recent past.

#### 6. Christianity transforming the culture.

Where Christianity acts like salt and light in the culture, reshaping its values and affecting public policy like the influence of the 18th and 19th Century English Christian social reformers.

I trust that what we are launching today will help to train and inspire a new generation to embrace this sixth relationship with their culture – transformation. The question for us is: As the sun sets on Western Culture, is our wisdom about the cause of its decay clear and sharp enough to enable us to transform it from decay to renewal? Or, has the West fallen so far from the values and worldview that delivered us something close to Eden that we can’t get back?



## MATTHEW MAURY '90

By Matthew Maury '90, CEO, TEAR Australia

I work as the CEO with TEAR Australia, which is a movement of Christians in Australia responding to the needs of poor communities around the world. Before this role, I spent the past 18 years working from the grassroots level up to senior management with Christian development agencies (Habitat for Humanity, American Leprosy Missions). I was involved with projects around the world, but 15 of those years were spent living in Africa.

I am based in Melbourne, Australia, (with my wife and two young boys) but the work of TEAR extends to 23 countries in Asia and Africa. Eastern was the launching pad for my career in Christian international development work. It gave me a solid foundation from which I have been able to continue to learn and grow.

My time in the MBA program in Economic Development at Eastern was immensely formative in launching my life in this vocation. My theological formation and approach to development/ministry are to this day based solidly on input from Eastern faculty and fellow students. Since graduating, the network of alumni I studied with has remained a strong resource, encouragement and accountability for me. I continue to be encouraged by the places where I come across alumni from Eastern University - there doesn't seem to be a corner of the world which hasn't been impacted by Eastern grads!



## TREVOR THOMAS '91 JUDY POWELL THOMAS '91

### FROM AUSTRALIA TO ST. DAVIDS... AND BACK

By Trevor Thomas '91 MBA and Judy Powell Thomas '91 MS

It is 20 years since we arrived in Philly from Sydney, Australia. They were halcyon days! Fantastic classes, stimulating conversations, the challenge of meeting people from around the world with great experience and wisdom. After graduation, we spent six years working with the Anglican Church of Paraguay. We returned to Australia in 1997 to take up a position with TEAR Australia - educating Christians about discipleship and serving the poor as part of our global mission. Trevor chairs the Board of TEAR, and Judy is the Overseas Fieldworker Coordinator. We have done our best to bring a bit of Eastern to Australia - Our close friends **Matthew** (MBA 1990) and **Susan Maury** recently moved to Australia to take up the role of Director of TEAR.

# 25 YEARS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Photo courtesy of Adam Jeske

## TRANSFORMATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Food for the Hungry and Eastern University co-hosted the 2nd Annual Transformational Development Conference in August. Participants were inspired by outstanding speakers and shared ideas and concerns with one another. Speakers included Rene Padilla, the president of the Micah Network and executive director of Ediciones Kairos; The Rev. Dr. Tony Campolo, professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University and founder of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education (EAPE); Jaisankar Sarma, above, the vice president for transformational development with World Vision International; Lisa Sharon Harper, executive director of NY Faith & Justice, a movement of churches, organizations and individuals dedicated to following Christ, uniting the church, and ending poverty in New York; and Benjamin Homan, president/CEO of Food for the Hungry.

"I'm delighted that we were able to host this Conference, especially on the 25th Anniversary of our MBA in Economic Development program," said Dr. David Bronkema, director of Development Programs at Eastern University. "We need these kinds of spaces so that we can reflect on how to be better stewards of the resources that God has given us in this field, and to encourage each other and hold each other mutually accountable." For more information, visit: [www.tdconference.org](http://www.tdconference.org).

## FIRST RESIDENCY IN HONDURAS

**Arturo Meneses**, regional coordinator, reports on the start-up of Eastern's first residency for an Organizational Leadership cohort in Honduras. This is the first program Eastern is launching in Latin America without direct involvement of other organizations. He writes, "By the grace of God, in the midst of political turbulence in Honduras and after a lot of energy promoting the program, we are proud to celebrate that all participants made it to the residency and we have already started the Social Entrepreneurship course with **David Bronkema**."

This cohort is unique in its diversity. There are more female participants than male in a Latin American cohort (13 women and 7 men). Another first is that Catholics and Evangelicals are almost equally represented (11 Catholic Christians and 9 Evangelical Christians).

Arturo says, "It is my prayer that God will continue cultivating our team effort and shared vision for impacting the quality of holistic leadership in our beloved Latin America. As the Bible says, please keep in mind that your work in the Lord is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58)."

## EU FACULTY WRITE TRANSFORMATIONAL JOURNAL

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of our MBA in Economic Development program, Eastern's faculty took some time to reflect on what is going on in Christian development practice. The result was the entire April 2009 issue of *The Transformation Journal: International Journal of Holistic Mission Studies* with a theme of "Evangelical Development Practice: Whither into the Future?" Featured in this issue are articles that identify where our faculty think cutting-edge work is being done in Christian development theory and praxis. Visit <http://trn.sagepub.com> for additional information.





# Don't Be

By Christine Jeske (MBA 2004)

A mon-  
key and  
a fish got

caught in a flood. As the waters rose higher and higher, Monkey grabbed a tree branch and climbed to safety onto dry land. As he got above the water, he looked out and saw Fish in the water. Out of concern for Fish, he climbed out onto the tree again and reached down to rescue Fish. He carried him back to the land. This, of course, was the end of Fish, since fish cannot live out of water. It is the first day of a course on Intercultural Communication and Anthropology, and I have asked the class to reflect on this story, which I first found in Duane Elmer's *Cross-Cultural Connections* (Intervarsity, 2002). In class we discuss some of Elmer's suggested reflection questions: how the fish felt, what motivated the monkey ("I think he was a Christian monkey," one student points out), and what advice we would give that monkey. The class is at the Evangelical Seminary of Southern Africa, a small college in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

"The monkey felt pity, but the fish didn't need to be pitied," says a man from rural Kenya whose work experience has included running a transport business with three bicycles and working as a missionary to a half-dozen African countries.

One of the three students from Burundi picks out an answer in his limited English, his third language.

"He didn't understand what the fish needed.

He didn't learn to speak fish-language." A Congolese woman who came to South Africa as a refugee adds, "The fish might have had needs he never learned. Maybe he lost his children in the flood, or maybe he had been struck by rubbish in the water, but the monkey didn't find out about those needs."

A Zulu South African who hopes to one day serve as a missionary in Afghanistan summarizes, "He didn't understand fish culture." Over half of us in the classroom are living outside our native cultures, and all of us realize how vital this subject will be for the future missionaries, pastors, community leaders, and development workers in our midst.

I offer examples from my own stumbling attempts at development work over the past years in Nicaragua, China, and South Africa. I came to South Africa over three years before this to work with an American-founded microfinance organization. My husband and I were asked to lead a pilot project aimed at helping at-risk or orphaned teenagers start small businesses.

Experience in South Africa

When we arrived in South Africa, we quickly discovered that before our arrival, only about 10% of the youth in the pilot project had repaid their loans on time. Even those who repaid made little profit. Many of them copied the same weak business ideas as their

friends, such as selling a few candies a day at school.

Like the monkey, my husband (Adam Jeske, MBA 2004) and I did not speak the language, and while intense study of Zulu helped, it would be a long time before we could accurately assess what was happening with our ears.

Eventually, through many long conversations, observations and experiments, we found reasons behind the low repayment and recruitment struggles. Young people were already overstressed by too little time to complete school work. Some of the young participants had joined the project more for the perks of a free overnight training weekend than a desire to run a business. Others took their American leader's business plan ideas without adapting them to fit local demands and realities.

We saw that the community we worked in was nearly devoid of role models in business. Apartheid had forbidden blacks to own businesses, which wiped out the little entrepreneurship that existed. Traditionally, Zulu people had survived as cattle herders, hunters, and warriors for thousands of years. Loans from commercial lending institutions were not hard to get in the community, even at interest not much higher than what our organization charged, but often loan repayment was poorly enforced. All these factors meant that the model of microfinance that our organization was copying from other cultures fit here like a glove squeezed onto a foot.

# a Monkey

As the Congolese woman pointed out in class, though, the fish may have had needs that the monkey never knew were there. As my husband and I cultivated deeper relationships and understanding of the rural culture, we found new needs that we could meet. We facilitated the creation of a computer center and trained a young man to teach classes there. We began discussion groups that helped young people sort out their goals after high school and find scholarships and other means to achieve those goals. We worked with pastors and church leaders to teach biblical financial management, community development, and leadership skills.

## Humble Learners

In cross-cultural interactions, we rarely get everything right the first time. Serving God while immersed in a new culture requires a willingness to always be a learner—a humble learner.

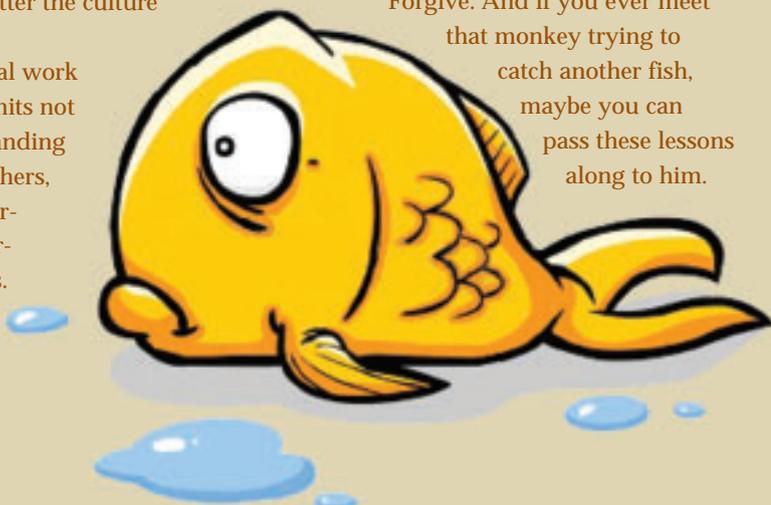
Later in the cross-cultural communication class, we share laughs over cross-cultural blunders. We have all made mistakes, no matter the culture we came from.

Cross-cultural work can push our limits not only of understanding and forgiving others, but also of understanding and forgiving ourselves. As we see ourselves through others' eyes,

we notice patterns in ourselves that we have accepted as normal, but that are not biblical. God might use an experience in a new culture to point out our stinginess with our time, our tight-fistedness with money, or our judgmental tendencies toward less-educated people. As we see ourselves through others' eyes, God asks us to recognize, confess, and be freed from our own culturally-taught sins.

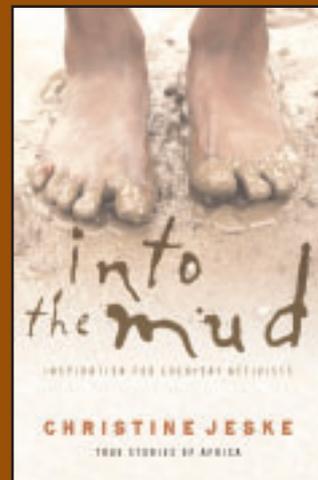
Whether in Nicaragua, China, South Africa, or a diverse neighborhood in the United States, I constantly return to the concepts I learned in an Eastern graduate course in Intercultural Communication: Listen. Observe. Be intentional in anthropological research techniques. Recognize the values and beliefs at the roots of behavioral patterns. Look for nonverbal subtleties. Find and spend time with cultural translators. Begin as a follower, not a leader, of local people. Study the local language and use it. Laugh at yourself. Examine yourself. Define and convey love in ways that transcend culture.

Forgive. And if you ever meet that monkey trying to catch another fish, maybe you can pass these lessons along to him.



## ABOUT THE JESKES

Christine and Adam Jeske and their two children live at the Evangelical Seminary of Southern Africa ([www.essa.ac.za](http://www.essa.ac.za)). Christine's book, *Into the Mud: Inspiration for Everyday Activists: True Stories from Africa*, is being published December 2009 (Moody). The book tells real stories of people living neck-deep in some of Africa's most difficult issues — but with hands, minds, and hearts rooted in God's



kingdom. Each of its interwoven stories addresses broader issues of missions and development. Reflection questions

with each chapter challenge readers and study groups to apply lessons in their own lives and to enter more deeply into the thick of life's mud. This book is for anyone looking for God's stories of hope where the world sees only despair. Study groups, development students, mission teams, and everyday activists alike will be challenged by the stories to enter more deeply into the thick of life's mud. To read more, including endorsements from Tony Campolo, Shane Claiborne, and others, go to [jeskelife.org/node/33](http://jeskelife.org/node/33).



NAFZIGER  
DALE LEE NAFZIGER

MCC — 30 YEARS IN NEPAL

By Dale Lee Nafziger

Warmest greetings from the darkness of another morning (without electricity) here in Nepal's capital city. Two-thirds of each day we continue to be without electrical power. This January marked 30 years since I arrived in Nepal as a fresh recruit under Mennonite Central Committee. I found some handwritten notes from my orientation.

1. Be a committed Christian in word and deed.

Differences between mission and service work are increasingly vague.

2. Have an honest self-evaluation.

3. Be discerning regarding issues of social justice.

Speak the truth when the truth should be spoken.

4. Learn the local language and culture.

5. Be flexible.

Sounds like good advice for today, 30 years later. I thank God for the very wonderful last 30 years of my life.

## FOOD SECURITY FOR GUATEMALA

By Nathaniel Howard '06

I help coordinate a food security program with four agrarian communities in Sibinal, San Marcos, on the border of Chiapas, Mexico and Guatemala. Our primary focus is the development of two agricultural marketing cooperatives.

Besides introducing me to concepts that I have continually engaged at a deeper and more practical level out here in the field, Eastern's program was critical in my developing an understanding of "bad" poverty as a spiritual and socio-political issue. I have enjoyed the continual support of friends I made among the Eastern teaching staff, namely Stan LeQuire and Nathan Corbitt.

In this corner of Guatemala, the supported communities are in many ways quite healthy and good. Nevertheless, due to mostly external factors, they are slowly breaking down. Our project aims to help preserve what already exists, by creating dignified ways for families to provide economically for themselves without migrating to the cities or to the north, or by giving in to the dehumanizing types of development knocking at their doors. We developed a long-term vision that seeks to foment hope and to begin answering the challenges confronting the region.

HOWARD  
NATHANIEL HOWARD '06





## THE CHURCH IN ACTION: THE EASTERN UNIVERSITY AND MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE PARTNERSHIP

LEONARD  
DANIEL LEONARD '06

By Daniel Leonard '06

My discovery of the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a relief, development, and peace agency of the Mennonite and Brethren in Christ Churches, was a welcome breath of fresh air. The ability to combine Christian faith with radical discipleship and simple living was new to someone who grew up in a wealthy church in suburban Philadelphia. When I heard that Robb Davis, former Executive Director of MCC, was speaking at Eastern, I dropped my classes to go hear him.

I recall listening to Robb talk about the importance of simple living and decreasing our use of resources. He talked about the role of faith and the church community as being central to this work. Inspired, I decided to apply to work at MCC, and 48 hours after

graduating from Eastern I packed my bags and moved to Akron, PA for orientation.

My current work at MCC is in the creation of a new volunteer program, Seed, which focuses on bringing young adults from around the world together for two years of group study, service and advocacy. I've had the opportunity to visit many MCC programs around the world, where I have continually come across graduates of Eastern's undergraduate and graduate programs. As I have met Eastern alumni now working with MCC- people like Nate Howard, Food Security and Development worker in Guatemala, or Kayon Watson, who worked with MCC in Nicaragua- I have been encouraged to find people whose work for justice and peace is rooted in a profound Christian faith.

## MCC and Eastern Share Values

By Helen Davis '06, Associate Director for Latin America and the Caribbean

Because Eastern's and MCC's values are so closely aligned, I consider my role at MCC an opportunity to practice the faith-based community development skills I learned at Eastern. Some of these values include the importance of building cross-cultural relationships, working for social justice and peace, good stewardship and living simply. How does this look on the ground? This fall I became the Interim Country Representative for MCC Brazil. I live with a local family, have gained a decent level of fluency in Portuguese, take the bus to work every

day, and worship with a local Mennonite Church. At work, I've been dialoguing extensively with our partners and MCC workers to learn as much as I can about our history, projects and operations. MCC Brazil is in transition. I am drawing on the servant leadership, project planning and evaluation and administrative skills I learned at Eastern, as well as on my faith, nurtured at Eastern, to guide our program until the new country representatives arrive in January.

Our partnership goes beyond the 50+ Eastern alumni who have worked for MCC in the past 20 years. Most recently, there has been further engage-

ment with people like Dr. David Bronkema who has spoken to MCC on how Results Based Management and Best Practices can increase the effectiveness of MCC in our work, and MCC staff person Bruce Campbell-Janz who spoke with Eastern students on the role of Communities of Faith in International Development.

When partnerships like this are formed, it is not only important for the complex but meaningful work of development; but also to understand how we as a church community can work for justice, peace, and the coming reign of God.

DAVIS  
HELEN DAVIS '06

# Faith & Practice

## No Pasta, Please!

By Rebecca Druckenmiller

Amid the struggling economy, food banks all across the country are also struggling to keep up with demand, which is why the effort of local organizations can make all the difference. **Tom Dahlstrom**, Eastern's Director of Institutional Research, has been preparing meals with a small, sermon-based group from his church for three years. Every month he joins **Fran Decker**, an Eastern librarian, and **Pat Bleil**, an Eastern Ph.D. student, and several others in preparing over 100 meals that are then frozen and distributed to local shelters. All of the food is purchased at cost from **Mike Kenis** and **Mark Hinkle**, employees of the campus dining service, Sodexo, who also assist the group in adjusting recipes and providing nutritional advice.

The group tries to keep all meals as nutritious as possible and also tries to avoid pasta dishes when they can.

"When meals are donated, they are typically pasta meals since they are the easiest and cheapest to prepare, but we find that people get tired of eating pasta every day so we try to get creative. Shepherd's pie is our most popular meal," says Dahlstrom. They also try to double up on the meat and vegetables in the recipe because for many this may be their only good meal that day. Prep time usually takes about two hours but they also use the time as an extended fellowship and encourage others to join. With over 2000 meals prepared in the last two years, the group hopes to keep up the pace through the upcoming winter season.



## Drew and Tracy Cope Serving Together

Drew '01 and Tracey (Jones) Cope '04 were married in 2004. Both majored in youth ministry and work together at the Christian Life

Center in New London, PA. Their ministries include a weekly youth program, small groups, a free home repair ministry, a leadership training program for young adults, a school assembly program, mission trips to the Dominican Republic and Mississippi, and a t-shirt printing operation to help fund it all. Youth Ministry major Jonathan Mosaicant is the sixth student they've sent to Eastern. Kevin and Jessica (DiIenno) Crossan graduated from Eastern in 2007 and recently returned from a year of mission work in Northern Ireland. Nora Barth is studying in Mexico.

Continuing the social justice taught at Eastern, Tracey and Drew run a free home repair ministry called Project: R.A.K.E. They recruit skilled adults to lead groups of teens in sharing the love of Christ in a tangible way with low-income families, seniors,

and those with disabilities. Project: R.A.K.E. has contributed nearly 60,000 hours of community service to 207 families in Southern Chester County, PA.

They've also helped launch a new public school assembly program through Ground Zero Master's Commission called Explicit Truth ([www.explicittruthonline.com](http://www.explicittruthonline.com)) to teach students about positive choices and invite them out to a rally at a local church where the team can give a Gospel presentation.

But even with all that activity, Drew says they keep things in perspective. "Ministries are great vehicles to go places, but unless you're building relationships along the way, or somehow multiplying yourself or the influence God has given you, it's all a waste."



Center in New London, PA. Their ministries include a weekly youth program, small groups, a free home repair ministry, a leadership train-

# RELYING ON FAITH IN UGANDA



Market in Pader



Desmond and David



Alhali traditional dance



By Rebekah Miller, Features Editor of The Waltonian  
Junior Katy Slininger had a desire to help the people of Uganda even before she began her study abroad through the Uganda Studies Program. She decided to stay in Uganda all summer to work with Emmanuel International. "It's about loving people and showing the love of Christ by helping with development and poverty issues," Slininger said.

Slininger started working in displaced people's camps where she handed out "posho," (a maize flour) and salt, and worked with A.I.D.S. victims. While she was there a famine hit and her work changed to making powerpoint presentations to solicit donations for the organization.

Slininger stayed in a two-story hut in an enclosed compound in Pader, northern Uganda. "I was the only westerner in town," Slininger said. Pader is mostly made up of refugee camps. The government in this area does not meet the people's needs and they are almost completely reliant on outside assistance.

Since high school, Slininger felt drawn to the area of northern Uganda. "In high school I saw the Invisible Children documentary and that woke me up," she said. Giving up a summer's worth of earning money for tuition and missing her older brother's wedding were not the only things Slininger missed while in Uganda. "I lacked all the traditional comforts that I had in America," she said. "The only comfort I had was my faith. There is a huge Christian community in Uganda who have been through things that Americans can't imagine and they still hold on to their faith." They have to deal with oppression, government corruption, drought, hunger and tribalism.

Slininger encourages people to get involved with smaller aid organizations because they can really help the areas that are often overlooked by the larger organizations. She also reminds us that there is one way that anyone can help, saying, "Prayer is the first and most important way."

# HEALING THROUGH DANCE

When disaster strikes, you might not think of dance as a great way to help - but Indigenous Pitch Dance Collective of Ardmore, PA, does. This past summer was their third consecutive year in New Orleans where they provided camps for children recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

They taught over 60 children, ages 6-18. Each day of camp has a specific theme, such as Community or Trust. Camps include daily technique classes, improv games, art projects and choreography. Every child receives a journal to help process the themes. The journals promote practical writing skills as well as personal expression. Camp culminates in a performance that invites the community to share the children's creative achievements.

Eastern alum Nicole (Perry) LaBonde '05 serves as the executive director of the collective. She is supported by program director Christine (Underwood) Herrman '07 and artistic director Lisa Welsh.

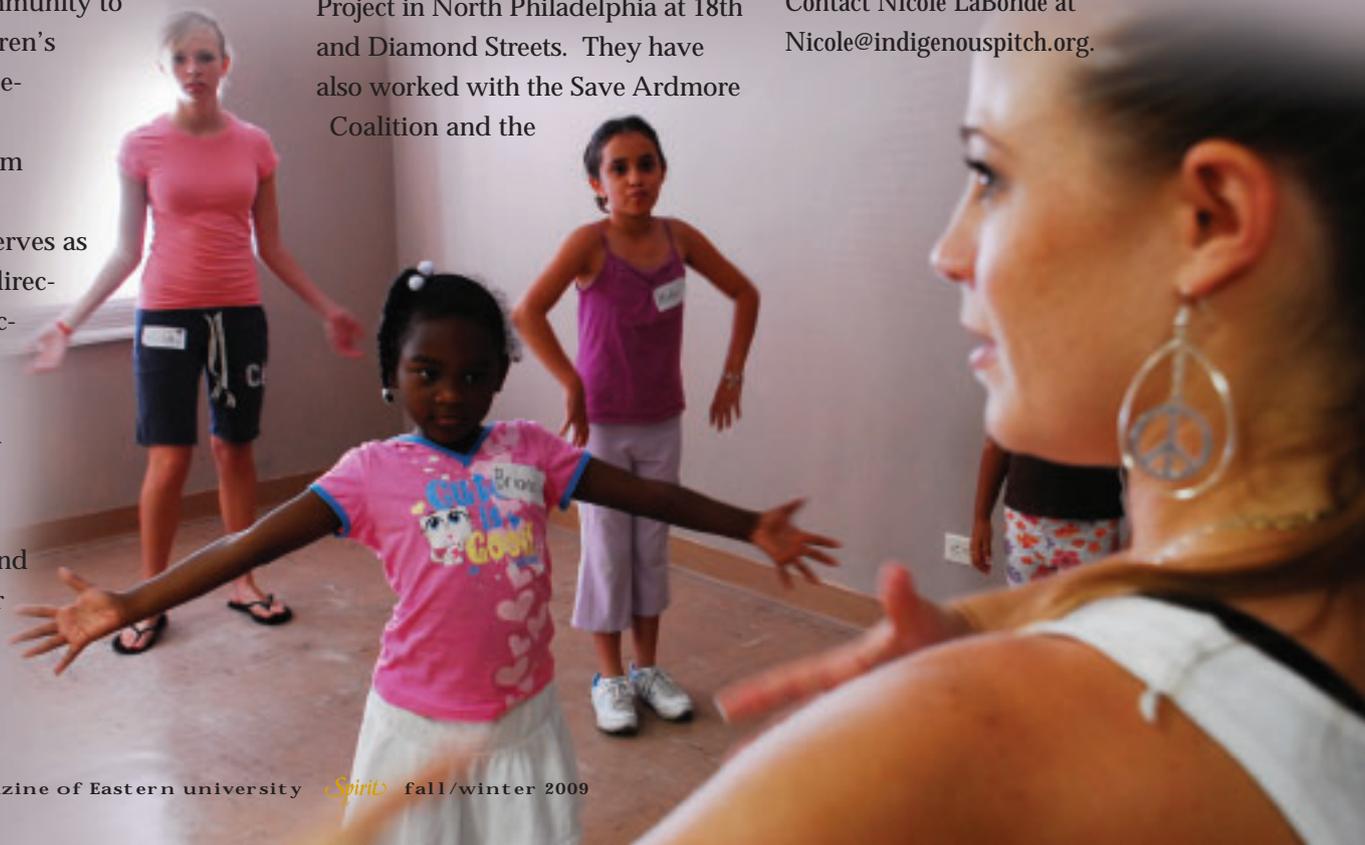
Nicole says, " Our commitment to inspiring young minds and educating them about artistic expression is evident in our free dance camps. Our student-centered outreach has helped hundreds of children improve life skills such as creative thinking, problem solving, teamwork, communication, discipline and self-confidence." Indigenous Pitch hopes to offer dance camps after school as well as school holidays. This expanded schedule will allow them to provide child care for working parents in the community who have few options.

In addition to their camps in New Orleans, the collective has expanded its programs to include a Spring Break camp with the ROCK Project in North Philadelphia at 18th and Diamond Streets. They have also worked with the Save Ardmore Coalition and the

First Baptist Church of Ardmore to provide dance classes for that community.

Indigenous Pitch Dance Collective, Inc. was founded by Lisa Welsh in 2006 as part of the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. That group performance has become a multi-faceted, unique educational outreach. As Nicole says, "We provide the opportunity for self-expression when few others have recognized the plight of these creatively malnourished children. When artistic expression dies, the community stagnates. Our program brings hope and creates connections within the communities we serve."

Learn more at [indigenousspitch.org](http://indigenousspitch.org). Contact Nicole LaBonde at [Nicole@indigenousspitch.org](mailto:Nicole@indigenousspitch.org).



## Palmer Seminary Plays Leading Role in Race/Ethnicity Dialogue

By Randy Frame

In March of 2008 in Philadelphia, then-Presidential candidate Barack Obama gave a major speech on race. Its goal was to promote dialogue and understanding across racial and ethnic lines.

Seven months later, Eastern University sponsored a visit from renowned scholar and author Dr. Cornel West, who drew a large crowd to Palmer Seminary to lead a "Dialogue on Race in the Church and Society." Among those in attendance was Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter.

Palmer Theological Seminary (PTS) President Wallace Charles Smith was not alone in thinking that this event could be a spark leading to significant progress in bridging our country's longstanding racial divides. Mayor Nutter agreed, and the seeds for a new dialogue on race and ethnicity were planted.

"I recognize that some people may be tired of talking about race because various issues related to race have been around for so long," says PTS President Smith. "But as a country—and as the church—we still have a long way to go. It's hard work. It's sometimes painful work. But it's necessary and important work."

Since last year, a steering committee for the dialogue, called New Conversation on Race and Ethnicity (NewCore), has been meeting. The effort has the full support of Mayor Nutter, who has deployed



*Members of NewCore meet to discuss issues in the church, community and workplace.*

Malcolm Byrd of his office of Faith-Based Initiatives to serve as one of the leaders. (Malcolm is a Palmer alum and is a student in the Seminary D.Min. program.)

NewCore is comprised of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders, as well as

some who do not claim any religious faith. Its efforts so far have produced an evening of guided interfaith, race-related discussion at City Hall in February and a debate about race (held on the Eastern University campus) that aired on a popular Philadelphia radio talk show.

NewCore is focusing its efforts on securing major foundation funding to advance the dialogue. The objective is to transport the discussion from the academy to the communities and workplaces that deal with race-related issues and conflicts daily. The proposal calls for professional mediators to guide a discussion that will ultimately lead to a greater willingness to listen to other people's stories and to increased understanding across racial and ethnic lines.

Says President Smith, "My dream is for our efforts in Philadelphia to become a model for similar initiatives in other metropolitan areas nationwide."

### FIRST GRADUATES FROM CENTER FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Fourteen newly certified paralegals, all ex-offenders, received their diplomas, the first class to graduate from the Center for Community Education at Eastern University. The program, which is run in partnership with the Mayor's Office for Re-entry, provided participants with nine months of high intensity schooling two evenings a week and all day Saturday. The curriculum included courses in business writing, career readiness, legal terminology, law office management and Spanish for the workplace.

"This program is designed to give us second chances and start over," Kimberly Truitt said. "It gives individuals who have made a mistake the opportunity to get an education and develop the skills that are necessary for a rewarding career."

## CENTER *for* EARLY AFRICAN CHRISTIANITY moves *to* EASTERN UNIVERSITY

Eastern University's St. Davids campus is now home to The Center for Early African Christianity (CEAC). This new center is devoted to the study of early African exegesis and culture and will devote much of its attention to key early African leaders such as Athanasius, Cyprian and Tertullian. The CEAC's mission is to provide resources for African Christians as they face the unique challenges of the 21st century, and to develop links with the African American community.

The CEAC, previously located in Oklahoma City, OK, selected Eastern University for its residence after carefully considering other colleges and universities, including Yale University. The center will work alongside African Christian pastors, bishops, theologians, and biblical scholars, providing insights gleaned from ancient African sources, with the goal of helping the African church as it lives in a modern context. The Center will oversee research, present seminars, and create curricula, archaeological studies, and a detailed online database. The Center is also incorporating the work of the African scholars who will be based in Africa doing research.

"We are very excited to have CEAC as part of the Eastern community," said Dr. Christopher Hall, Eastern University Chancellor and a CEAC board member. "We will facilitate research concerning a fundamental thesis:

ancient Christianity is much more deeply rooted in African sources than we had previously thought possible."

The central thesis of the CEAC stems from the research of Dr. Thomas C. Oden, the Center's director and general editor of the *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*. Dr. Oden also authored *How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind*, a book that investigates the thesis that Africa has played a decisive role in the formation of Christian culture from its infancy. The book researches the intellectual achievements of Christianity that were explored and understood first in Africa before they were recognized in Europe, and a millennium before they were recognized in modern North America.

Through the CEAC, scholars will come to appreciate even more the role Africa played in the great Christian tradition of the early centuries of Christianity. Dr. Oden said, "We hope to make a significant contribution to the spiritual and academic life of Eastern University."

"Having this center at Eastern University speaks volumes about what we value at Eastern," Dr. Hall said. "It communicates to the broader academic community that Eastern is a place that takes scholarship and research very seriously."

For more information about the Center for Early African Christianity, visit: [www.earlyafricanchristianity.com](http://www.earlyafricanchristianity.com)



### TEMPLETON HONORS COLLEGE CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY, WELCOMES RECORD-SETTING COHORT

This fall, Eastern University's Templeton Honors College (THC) celebrates its 10th anniversary and welcomes its largest, most diverse group of students in the College's history. To celebrate the College's 10th anniversary, THC hosted various events, including a Lincoln Symposium in October, which examined Lincoln's views of liberty, equality, nationhood, and government by consent, revisiting the importance of America's founding principles to America's greatest statesman.

The incoming first-year cohort consists of 35 total students (51.4 % female), coming from 15 states and two countries (Ethiopia and Haiti). The average SAT score for THC's fall cohort is 1320/1970 and the average ACT score is 30 (which is equivalent to a SAT score of 1340). Additionally, the incoming cohort consists of four National Merit Scholarship Corporation Finalists and one Semi-Finalist, as well as two valedictorians.

For more information about Templeton Honors College, visit: [www.templetonhonorscollege.com](http://www.templetonhonorscollege.com).

#### DR. ANNE FRANCOIS RECEIVES FULBRIGHT AWARD



Anne François, Ph.D., chair of the Language Department and associate professor of French, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct nine months of research in Burkina Faso, West Africa, this fall. Dr. François, a native of Haiti, is focusing her research on Burkinabe cinema. She is also lecturing at

Ouagadougou University and teaching about America. Dr. François' areas of expertise include Francophone Caribbean and African literature, postcolonial literature, women's studies and the translation of English, French and Haitian Creole.

#### SPIRIT WINS 2009 APEX AWARD

Your University Communications Office is pleased to report



that Spirit Magazine has won an APEX Award for Publications Excellence in the 21st Annual competition. With about 3,785 entries, the contest honors outstanding work by professional communicators in industry, education, the sciences and civic organizations. Eastern joins 34

other winners in the Magazine category including Toyota Motor Sales USA, the Dryden Flight Research Center of California, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, University of Maryland, Ontario Nurses Association, Sandia National Laboratories, and University of Michigan. This is the third APEX Award our Communications Office has won in the past 10 years.

#### ACTIVE IN HEALTH CARE CAUSES

Miriam Wagner Long '09, MS in Nonprofit Management, is the Development Manager for Vizion Group Inc. (VGI). Long, who moved to the U.S. from Germany in 2004, completed her undergraduate work at the University of Lincoln in the United Kingdom. Joining VGI in 2004, Long helped to raise over \$1.5 million for The NephCure Foundation's continuing struggle to find the cause and cure for two debilitating kidney diseases. She co-established an international consortium for Nephrotic Syndrome patient organizations and traveled to Paris, France, where she worked with representatives from France, The Netherlands, Italy, The United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, and Belgium to increase awareness for this devastating kidney disease.

Long has worked with the Christian Blind Mission in Germany to educate the public on the struggles of people affected by cataracts disease.

Dr. Craig Keener wrote a commentary on Romans in a new series that he is editing with Michael Bird. The Historical Jesus of the Gospels (Eerdmans), argues that the best sources for "historical Jesus" study remain the canonical Gospels.

Rod Snyder '02 was elected Executive Vice President for Young Democrats of America at their national convention in Chicago. He graduated from Eastern with a bachelor's degree in political science and served as student body president. He now works as director of public policy with the National Corn Growers Association in Washington, D.C. Snyder was named West Virginia's Outstanding Young Democrat for 2005. Also an accomplished singer/songwriter, he released his debut album *Leaving Hollywood Behind* in 2006.

#### EASTERN STUDENT WINS 2009 AMERICAN COUNSELING ASSOCIATION ESSAY CONTEST

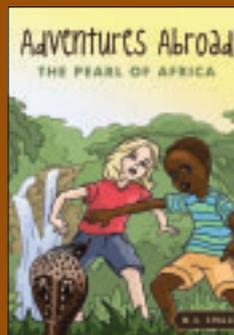
Deborah May Berghuis, an Eastern University counseling psychology graduate student, was selected as a winner in the 2009 American Counseling Association Foundation Essay Contest. Her essay was among 120 essays submitted by students nationwide.

Berghuis receives a one-year membership to the American Counseling Association and also has her essay published in *Counseling Today* and on the ACA Web site at [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org).

#### MULTICULTURAL BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

By **Melanie (Simcox) Tabakin '01**

As a certified elementary education teacher and avid world traveler to over 20 countries, I realized that there



was an absence of multicultural literature that allowed children to learn more about the world around them. While working at Eastern, I was immersed in Eastern's culture that so prominently focuses on justice in the community and how one person can make a difference. That's how I came to write *Adventures Abroad*, a multicultural, juvenile literature series for elementary children. These books blend cultural facts with fiction. *The Pearl of Africa* is the first book in the series and is available at [www.tatepublishing.com](http://www.tatepublishing.com) or through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and bookstores.

## Eastern Inducts First Hall of Honor Class

The Eastern University Varsity Club and the Athletic Department welcomed the first three members to the Eastern University Athletic Hall of Honor: Tom Byron '58, Andrea Collesidis Roos '02, and W. Donald Gough '67. Eastern Director of Athletics and Athletic Development Mark Wagner said, "Each

member of the class left a distinctive legacy at Eastern, and sets a great standard for future inductees."

Byron, who graduated from Eastern Baptist Seminary in 1958 and passed away in 1973 while working at Westmont College, served as a coach and administrator at Eastern from 1958 to 1963. He coached basketball and soccer, served as athletic director, worked as a dorm proctor, and served as dean of students. The depth of Byron's legacy, however, surpassed the breadth of his responsibilities. His commitment to mentoring students spurred those who played for Byron to establish a scholarship in his memory.

Former Eastern University Women's Lacrosse Coach Carolyn (Spahr) Urban '94 presented Andrea Collesidis Roos. She holds Eastern career scoring records for both basketball and lacrosse. Originally nominated because she has scored more collegiate goals than any women's lacrosse player in NCAA history, her basketball accomplishments quickly came to light and the two-sport standout and 2002 graduate was seen as an athlete who would set the bar high for all future classes. Urban commented that Roos raised the prestige of Eastern's Athletic Department as her accomplishment was



From left: Tom Byron, Jr. (accepting for his father), Don Gough and Andrea Collesidis Roos.

recorded by local and national media. Roos thanked her coaches, parents, and teammates, and gave special and emotional thanks to her twin sister Chris, who played both sports with her at Eastern.

Hall of Honor committee member Joe Tatta '55 presented Don Gough, who

lead the tennis team to a pair of undefeated regular seasons and a trip to the NAIA National Tournament in Kansas City, as well as serving as senior class president. Since he graduated in 1967, Gough has become the president of Gough Management Company, was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Eastern University, and has been a valued leader in his church and community. His stories of days past gave the current student-athletes a great sense of history for the athletic department at Eastern.

For more information about the Hall of Honor or the Varsity Club, click the varsity club link on [goeasterneagles.com](http://goeasterneagles.com) or contact Mark Wagner at [mwagner@eastern.edu](mailto:mwagner@eastern.edu).



For more information about  
**EASTERN UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS,**  
visit [www.goeasterneagles.com](http://www.goeasterneagles.com).



The Department of Nursing has incorporated a national End of Life Care certificate into the BSN. Eastern's BSN has been endorsed by the National Holistic Nurses Association.

Patricia O. Reger, PT, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of Biokinetics, reports that the exercise science program has received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). She said, "For a university to get accreditation, there are requirements the university must fulfill, and we have exceeded these expectations. This accreditation sets us apart from other schools and programs. If an employer sees that a student is coming from an accredited university, the student may have an edge against other students who may be competing with them for positions in the field."



#### DR. KAREN CLEMENTE RECEIVES OUTSTANDING DANCE EDUCATOR AWARD



Dr. Karen Clemente, chair of the Dance and Theatre Department, was presented with the Outstanding Dance Educator Award in June at the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) Conference. Dr. Clemente received the higher education award for her excellence in dance content skills, exemplary teaching, and utilization of education and community resources.

She said, "The NDEO is an amazing organization that advocates for dance education. Throughout my 25 years of teaching dance, I have been active at the state level in advocating for access to dance education for all children, in both public and private education settings. It's important that all education sectors work together to ensure that dance remains a powerful, cohesive vehicle for education."

For more information about EU's Dance department, visit [www.eastern.edu](http://www.eastern.edu)

#### READ @ EASTERN

Keep up with all the news at Eastern University by going to [www.eastern.edu](http://www.eastern.edu) regularly and clicking on the News and Events link. It takes you to the most recently posted news releases. You can also click on the @Eastern E-newsletter link from the homepage for our University-wide newsletter, updated weekly. Would you like to receive a link to this newsletter in your e-mail each week? Just send your e-mail address to: [lolson@eastern.edu](mailto:lolson@eastern.edu) and put the word "Subscribe" in the subject line.

#### PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND MAY 2010

Start planning now for your 17-day tour of "The Land of Jesus" during May of 2010. This tour is a Capstone opportunity not to be missed. Dan to Beersheba will be the classroom for a life-altering experience as we walk in the footprints of Joshua and Jesus. For more information, contact Dr. Kenneth Maahs ([kmaahs@eastern.edu](mailto:kmaahs@eastern.edu) or 610.341.5895). For brochure, go to: [www.eastern.edu/holyland](http://www.eastern.edu/holyland).

#### THE ARTS IN TRANSFORMATION

Dr. Nathan Corbitt reports that Eastern grad students served in Montana as part of a Culture in Community Contexts course, with the Arts in Transformation Concentration of the MA in Urban Studies program. They conducted an arts camp on a reservation. Eastern University professor Chris Hummer assisted in the orientation.

The project is part of a relationship between BuildaBridge International and the Tribal Council of Salish and Kootenai and facilitated by the Office of Indian Affairs of Montana. BuildaBridge is a community organization partner of the MA in Urban Studies Program and Eastern University.



## 1950's

**Myrtle (Mack) Benson '55** and **Bill** celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary this June. They have three children.

**Ruth (Balliette) St. Cyr '55** and **Emery** have three children and six grandchildren. Ruth is a piano teacher with the VA Music Teacher's Association and a member of the National Guild of Piano Teachers.

In April, Eastern welcomed **Elizabeth (Hill) Cutting '58** to the Bookstore for a signing of her book *Oil of Joy*.

**Janet (Eldred) Balson '59** and **John** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and have two grandchildren. Jan teaches English with Literacy Council and competes in six-wicket croquet tournaments.

**Carlton Bentz '59** and his wife of 52 years, **Jean**, have three children.

**Mary Ellen (Mills) Blake '59** and her husband of 50 years, **Jim**, have two married daughters and six grown grandchildren. She is a member of the American Assoc. of Christian Counselors and works part-time at Signature Health.

**Benjamin Champion '59** and **Susanne (Speers) '61** will celebrate their 50th anniversary next year. They have three children. In 2002, he retired after working in special education for 43 years and was elected Educator of the Year.

**George Daniels '59** and **Elizabeth** will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2010. Two of their three children are Eastern graduates. George, now retired, spent 37 years in ministry and has spent 16 months as an interim executive minister for the American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire.

**Elfriede (Meissner) Jopp '59** has been married to **Frank Jopp '58** since 1958. They have three daughters and four grandchildren. Elfriede retired in 2003 from the Academy Library at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

**Clement Neal '59** married **Carolyn Bare** in 1996. He has four children, ten grandchildren, and a stepdaughter. He owns two Studebaker cars, is on the board for the Studebaker Family Assoc. and is the Board president for the Habitat for Humanity Re-Stor Recycling Project.

**Milt Ryder '59** lives in Maine with his wife, **Helen**. Milt has two children from his first marriage and four grandchildren. Now retired, Milt had an extensive pastoral career.

## 1960's

**Emmanuel "Mannie" Awatefe-Tetsola '63** serves on the Delta State Civil Service Commission in Nigeria.

**Leslie Desmagles '64** and his wife, **Gertrude**, have two daughters and a son. Leslie contributed a chapter about religion in the Caribbean to the book *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean*. In 1992, he published the book *Faces of the Gods: Vodou and Roman Catholicism in Haiti*. Dr. Desmagles was awarded an endowed chair in *Religion and International Studies* at Trinity College.

**Margaret "Peggy" (Johnson) Hewitt '64** and **Bob** have three children, one foster grandchild, and one more on the way. Now retired, Peggy served as a Social Worker and Community Volunteer while Bob worked as a State Farm Insurance agent.

**Margareta "Margie" (Rinell) Jonell '64** is retired after a 33-year career as a school psychologist. In 2008, Margie spent six weeks doing

volunteer work with churches in Japan.

**Douglas Lyon '64** retired in July 2007. He is the assistant Scoutmaster for a Boy Scout Troop and is on a work crew for the Thermal Belt Habitat for Humanity.

**Marjorie (Kinsman) Williams '64** and **Jon** celebrated their 35th anniversary in June 2009. Marjorie taught high school English for 35 years and retired in 2000.

**Rev. Lee Charles Cattell '69** has three granddaughters. He was a teacher and administrator for 25 years at the Pilgrim Academy and a pastor for 13 at Milmay Bible Church.

**Margaret (Johnston) Foyle '69** has three grown children and one granddaughter. Her husband, **Bill Foyle '67** went home to be with the Lord in March, 2008. Margaret teaches high school history and is a member of the Grace Brethren Christian School Literacy Council.

**Stephen Heck '69** and **Cheryl (Cullingford) Heck '69** celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary in July. They have two children and one granddaughter. Steve is a social studies coordinator and will be entering his 40th year of teaching.

**Warren Miller '69** and **Barbara** have been married 33 years. Warren is a member of the Hanover Rotary Club and the PA Funeral Directors Association.

**Susan Newell '69** lives in Ireland serving in a church with World Venture in Galway.

**Alice (Daffinee) Perez '69** and her husband celebrated their 40th anniversary in July. Last year, she received the Thanks Badge from the Girl Scouts (she is a lifetime member of Girl Scouts of the USA).

**Elizabeth "Betsy" (Roberts)**

**Rowcliffe '69's** first husband passed away several years ago and she is now remarried. She has two children, three stepchildren and one granddaughter.

**Carol (Prendinger) Wilson '69**

retired from school counseling in 2007 and is working part-time with children at a cancer support center.

**Richard "Woody" Woodcock '69**

and **Carol (Perry) '69** have two married daughters and eight grandchildren. Woody has been teaching for 15 years and has been a pastor for 23 while Carol has been teaching for 25 years.

## 1970's

**Carolyn (Jervis) Beitmann '74**

married in 2005. Carolyn has five children and one grandchild. She has been working as the Director of Children's Ministries since 2001.

**Rev. Anthony DiBenedetto, Jr. '74**

and Joan celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2008. They have eight grandchildren. Anthony is in his 47th year of ministry and has served with the Police Chaplains for the past 14 years.

**Gretchen (Sayles) Dunneman '74**

married Reginald Dunneman in 1992. She has two sons from her previous marriage to **Paul Daffinee '74**. In 1994 Gretchen and Reginald began singing together and now have a full-time music ministry ([www.TheDunnemans.net](http://www.TheDunnemans.net)).

**Susan (Beardslee) Hudson '74**

and **Boyd Hudson '77** have a daughter and a son. Susan works at Horizon Research and Boyd is a respiratory therapist at Duke University Medical Center.

**Ralph Prickett '74** and his wife of 35 years, Barbara, have a daughter.

Ralph has been in the military for 25 years, and has served deployments to Kuwait, Saudi, Oman, Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Jan (Aiello) Rodgers '74** and her husband of 35 years, **Mark Rodgers '73**

have a son. She teaches at the Graduate School of Social Work at Dominican University and is editor-in-chief for the Journal of Global Social Work Practice.

**Deborah Lee (Brown) Rohrer '74**

and Ken have one son and are missionaries with Awana Clubs International.

**Barbara (Finnegan) Grugan '76**

retired from Pfizer after 20 years and is employed by Albert Einstein Medical Center as a cardiology practice administrator.

**Russ Kehler '78** and **Carol (Bowman) '78**

have trained over 22,000 children in gymnastics since 1981 at their Kehler's Gymnastics Center which is celebrating its 29th season.

**Jim McMahan '78** is the principal of JM Bear Advisors and Consultants.

**Randy Bond '79** and his wife of 30 years, **Deanna (Jones) Bond '79**, have two married daughters, a son, and a grandson. Randy has been the senior pastor at Zion's Church for over 25 years. Deanna is a substitute teacher and Sunday school teacher.

**Carole Chapin '79** retired from her part-time soloist position at church after 12 years.

**Jeannie (Lozzia) Harvey '79** and Craig have been married almost 10 years. Jeannie works part-time with Sovereign Grace Ministries.

**Jessie Pettine '79** has four children and seven grandchildren. She is a retired staff nurse and supervisor

from Collegeville Drug and Alcohol Hospital.

**Pamela C. Powell '79** has been married to Ronald Maurer since graduation. She is the photo archivist of the Chester County Historical Society.

**George Thomson '79** is the owner and president of G. Thomson Executive Search. He has a son, Andrew.

## 1980's - 2000's and CCGPS

In our effort to be good stewards of the environment, we are asking our "more recent" alums to go to our alumni Web page [www.alumni.eastern.edu](http://www.alumni.eastern.edu) to view their class news.

## In Memory

Karl Fetterman '52

Tyler Johnson '52

Lawrence Littlehale '52

Florence Schwab '53

Deborah Zimmerman '53

Rev. Dr. Harry Baxter '55

Lloyd Eldred '56

Marite Meek, wife of James Meek '56 and mother of James

Ingram, Jr. '86

John Dew '58

Dean Haywood '58

Rev. Donald Valentine '58

Rev. Dr. Thomas Ritter '59

T. William Foyle '67

Mary Doty '74

Jeanne Hanlon Doucette '81

William Garrett '82

Lonnie Crockett '92

Debbie Bauer '92

Mary Curley '94

Veronica Morgan '97 mother of Michelle (Morgan) Baraka '95

Rosemarie "Rosie" Overton '01

Domenick Rowe '04

Michael Skinner '08



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Eastern Cup Golf Event and Dinner

Philadelphia Cricket Club  
Monday, May 24, 2010

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[www.easterncup.org](http://www.easterncup.org)



For event photos visit [www.easterncup.org](http://www.easterncup.org)