

# The GLOBE Gazette

## Looking back at Spring 2011

The GLOBE managers worked hard to achieve their goals for the semester, and in the end, went far beyond their initial expectations. The managers worked in their respective teams, managing and implementing ideas and plans that kept the program's progress as the main focus. But, the success of the Spring semester's class is attributed to the teamwork that was showcased by all the GLOBE managers under the leadership of Dr. Linda Sama. They organized events, created marketing campaigns, developed a new promotional item, gave out new loans and fundraised to add to the GLOBE Fund. The work done by the Spring semester's class has helped GLOBE take another step forward, and provide loans to more borrowers.

This issue of the Gazette will take you back in time, and show you the work that the GLOBE managers achieved over the past five months, as well as discuss the first ever Student Fellows Program's trip to Vietnam.



### GLOBE Managers Spring 2011

Accounting, Program Audits and Enterprise Development:

Oluwabukola Ayeni, Diego Salvado, Diedre Smith, Qiudan Yu, Alexander Zugaro, Kamiya Chandra

Finance and Risk Assessment:

Elizabeth Janson, Alexander Lam, Rita Mannino, Marco Sementilli, Mary Sheehan, Victoria Xu

Technology and Communications:

Axel Folz, Kevin Garcia, Joseph Hwalek, Cynthia Shivamber, Alina Rizvi

Marketing and Fund Raising:

Gamal Ahmed, Shyon Bose, Katherine Cartagena, David Law, Nicole Tonis



# Objectives Spring

# Achieved 2011

## Accounting, Program Audits and Enterprise Development Team

Refined the basic accounting functions of the program.

Updated the client impact survey to increase accuracy of results measuring the personal impact, and business operations evaluations of the borrowers.

Created templates of financial statements to help borrowers develop basic bookkeeping skills.

Developed a Business Lexicon with financial terms relating to Microfinance, to help the Daughters of Charity deliver clear explanations to borrowers.

Conducted an internal audit of the program by measuring the performance of each team with regard to efficiency, teamwork, innovation, and leadership skills.

Secured a Vietnamese translation of the GLOBE website landing page, which was very helpful to the Student Fellows in Vietnam.



## Technology and Communications Team

Updated social media platforms to engage online audiences.

Developed Youtube video series to create awareness and explain GLOBE's mission.

Organized content for periodic GLOBE website updates.

Created a new storage system to compile the work of all GLOBE Managers (past and present).

Updated the GLOBE supporter list to make sure they are always informed of GLOBE's progress.

## Finance and Risk Assessment Team

Researched the microloan environment and related risks and opportunities in Vietnam and Bolivia as potential new regions for GLOBE operations.

Reviewed nearly 30 loans from the Congo, and approved loans for the following borrowers:

- 1) Bébé Boketsou: Loan approved for \$300 to invest in existing fruit and chikwange trade.
- 2) Christine Nkumu: Loan approved for \$350 to invest in existing agriculture and breeding business.
- 3) Régine Elenga: Loan approved for \$250 to invest in existing sewing business.
- 4) Olivier Bobulo: Loan approved for \$200 to invest in existing manioc and corn trade.
- 5) Marie Therese Boyele: Loan approved for \$300 to start a new trade business.
- 6) Régine Mati: Loan approved for \$450 to invest in existing oil, gas and fuel trade.



## Marketing and Fund Raising Team

Raised close to \$4500 for the GLOBE fund.

Created a new promotional item – A Bottle Opener – and marketed it through the slogan “Pop the top off poverty”.

Coordinated an email campaign to spread awareness and fundraise, through the Office of Alumni Relations and Development.

Organized 3 bake sales on the Queens campus to spread the GLOBE mission to the student community.

Created the “GLOBE Pitch” video to explain the programs workings and mission to the Youtube community.

Designed GLOBE's promotional item bundle to be sold through the St. John's bookstore.

# Student Fellows Program: Vietnam

The goal of the Student Fellows Program is to add another dimension to the microfinance education that GLOBE managers have been receiving through their semester with GLOBE.

GLOBE managers, Alina Rizvi and Marco Sementilli along with GLOBE Director, Dr. Sama visited Vietnam as the first ambassadors of the program. They met with different communities, learning the difficulties of the people first hand, exploring the culture, and experiencing the humbling beauty and hospitality of the country and its people.

*Below are Marco and Alina's reflections on their trip to Vietnam.*

In my GLOBE student fellows essay I mentioned that the reason I wanted to go to Vietnam was so that I could see with my own eyes what poverty looked like and hear it from the people who experienced it on a daily basis. Well it is safe to say that I now know what poverty looks like. Although there was a lot of it, I was more surprised to see the amount of talent and the hunger for opportunity in the places we visited and the people we saw in Vietnam. It was astonishing to see what skills and knowledge some of the poorest of people had. You would meet someone who was so gifted at what they did, and then be dumbfounded upon learning they make less than a dollar a day. Every time we met with people, they were eager to learn about GLOBE and they knew someone who could benefit from our program. Many were enthusiastic about just having the opportunity to practice English with us. As a student fellow I knew this experience would be a life changing one. Nevertheless, I did not think about the fact that it was also a life changing experience for the people we met as well. For some, their lives might be changed because they may become future GLOBE borrowers. They may not escape poverty today, tomorrow, in a month, or even in a year, yet their stories will live on because I will continue to tell them. It was truly an eye opening experience, one which I will never forget. Regardless of what happens in the future, whether I'm working for a non for profit organization or a multibillion dollar corporation the decisions I make and the things I do will always take into the consideration the things that I saw and the people that I met. I can't promise that I alone will be able to alleviate poverty, but I will do everything in my power to ensure that any decision I make will be one that will get us closer to a poverty free world.

**By Alina Rizvi**

What an amazing two weeks! Words can't describe the things that I have witnessed in the short, yet busy, trip to Vietnam. It is such an amazing feeling knowing that I directly contributed to the goal of obtaining new borrowers for the GLOBE Microloan Program. I was not sure what to expect for this trip, and to be honest I was a little pessimistic. Vietnam is a developing country, and it was obvious once we stepped out of Saigon that a lot of people needed a helping hand out of poverty. But, there was one factor that we thought would stand in our way -- the communist rule of Vietnam.

We knew from the start that our process would remain the same in Vietnam as in the countries where we operate in Africa, if in fact we were successful with our trip. That is -- wire money to the local Daughters of Charity and have them disburse the loans. Would they be okay with this? Would they have to register as an NGO with the government? What are the ramifications if the government is not pleased with our actions? Luckily, none of this comes into play. The Daughters of Charity were more than willing to work with us and to help people in their communities, and seemingly can operate independently of the government in this regard. We might see from Vietnam what we saw from the Congo -- an onslaught of applications. What a success! This Student Fellows Program is such a great opportunity for the two lucky students selected each academic year. It is one thing to see pictures of poverty on the white board at the front of the classroom, but to see it first hand, to immerse yourself in it is completely different. No amount of lectures or pictures can prepare you for something like that. It has changed me as a person forever. I will always have the question in the back of my head, "How can I help someone?" \$200 dollars goes a long way, especially in Vietnam. There is no doubt that we can change so many lives with a few microloans.

For the sake of this program, I hope that the Student Fellows Program continues next year and many years into the future. GLOBE is such a great program, not only for the borrowers but also for the managers. To be able to witness poverty, and to have the satisfaction of helping someone in need -- what a truly life changing adventure!

**By Marco Sementilli**



*For more exciting stories from the Student Fellows trip to Vietnam, visit our blog @ [tcbglobe.blogspot.com](http://tcbglobe.blogspot.com)*

# Memories from Spring 2011 & Vietnam



## GLOBE Alumni Corner

William Meyers

Fall 2010

The father of modern microfinance, Muhammad Yunus – a man we in GLOBE have all admired and on whose work we have modeled our decisions – has even been charged with improperly moving funds donated, although allegations are unproven. There are a few microfinance organizations that are in business solely for their own benefit. After listening to the final presentation of the spring 2011 Accounting Team, I have come to the conclusion that STJ GLOBE is completely transparent. My own bias aside, they have presented clear and concise financial statements and with the help of the Finance Team showed where the money was coming from and where it was going. The program has demonstrated that 97 cents of every dollar raised is going into the field. The Accounting team proved tonight the importance of good record-keeping, and showed the transparency of the STJ Global Microloan Program.

**Coming Soon !!!**



Our new promotional bundle will be available online through the STJ Bookstore.

***Thank You for your  
continuous support of  
GLOBE !***

For further information on current events and activities of GLOBE, please follow us on our social media sites or visit us @ [www.stjohns.edu/globe](http://www.stjohns.edu/globe)

