



Around the World for 40 Years

Reflections by

Circumnavigators Club Foundation Scholars

Compiled in observance of the

40th Anniversary of the Foundation's

Around the World Travel-Study Grant Program

1971 - 2011

Introduction

The following reflections by a cross-section of Foundation Scholars are responses to a call for submissions in observance of the 40th anniversary of the Circumnavigators Club Foundation Around the World Travel-Study Grant Program. While four decades separate the first Scholar from the most recent, the themes that flow from their reflections on the impact that their grants have had on their lives are remarkably consistent. To a person, the Scholars credit their grants with having had profound influences on the course of their activities following their circumnavigations. The Foundation's leaders could scarcely have foreseen the incredible success that would result from their decision to redirect the Foundation's philanthropic efforts back in 1970. The grant program now encompasses a half-dozen leading universities with exceptional international programs, and has provided more than 110 students with the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to plan and execute scholarly research projects while circumnavigating the globe, striving to further knowledge in a wide range of disciplines and promote international understanding. This remarkable achievement would not have been possible without the dedication of Chapter Foundation Coordinators and volunteers, university liaisons, Foundation headquarters, and - most of all - the generosity of members of the Circumnavigators Club, whose donations year in and year out provide the lion's share of funding for the grants, and to whom, as the following reflections attest, all Foundation Scholars owe a deep debt of gratitude.

New York

November 15, 2011

Gregory A. Rider



Current occupation:

President, Rider Advisory Group

Grant Year: 1971

Title of Project: “Image of America: The Psychological Impact of American Foreign Policy“

Countries Visited: England, West Germany, East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Lebanon, Cyprus, Israel, Iran, Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan

How the grant has affected my life:

The Foundation’s around-the-world travel-study grant has had a tremendous impact on my life. It helped focus my already-considerable interest in international affairs and provided on-the-ground insight into the multitude of factors influencing interactions among nations at all levels - from education to commerce to diplomacy. Together with traveling overseas with a student group comprised of young people from 20 countries while in high school, the grant also was the impetus for a lifelong interest in international travel, which is shared by my family. Following my graduation from Georgetown, I joined an export management firm and was stationed in Caracas, Venezuela for three years. From Venezuela, I was transferred to Australia for two years until returning to the U.S. to pursue an MBA at Harvard Business School. Upon graduation, I married Kathy, a cross-cultural educator and inveterate globe-trotter and in her own right, and embarked upon a career in international finance. Over the course of the next dozen years I was the new-ventures assistant to an industrialist with global interests and was a general partner of three private investment funds with international activities. I traveled overseas extensively in the course of my work and completed four or five additional complete circumnavigations. I later joined a UK-based investment bank which was subsequently acquired by Merrill Lynch and spent a number of years at Merrill and later at Bear Stearns & Co. managing privatizations of large state-owned enterprises and global equity offerings for private companies in Latin America, Europe, and Asia. I retired from full-time investment banking several years ago but continue to provide cross-border advisory services through my own firm, and, of course travel for pleasure with my family whenever I get the chance. I have been an officer and director of the Circumnavigators Club Foundation off and on for more than 30 years and am honored to have served as its president twice. Working with successive generations of Foundation Scholars and keeping up with friends in the Circumnavigators Club has been very gratifying and I am exceedingly proud to have been the “guinea pig” for the travel-study grant program 40 years ago.

Bruce R. Magid



Current Occupation:

Dean, International Business School
Brandeis University

Grant Year: 1972

Title of Project: “Cultures of Nations and Their Effect on International Relations”

Countries Visited: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary, India, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Yugoslavia

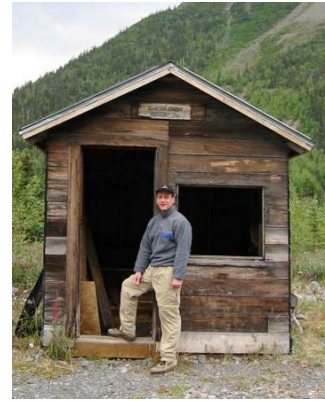
How the grant has affected my life:

This opportunity transformed my life. On both an intellectual and emotional level it stirred a desire to pursue an international career, to experience and understand multiple cultures and countries and to conduct research and business around the world. After that magical summer, I knew I would first pursue an international career, and later seek to give back by inspiring others to pursue international careers. After I completed my undergraduate degree at Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service, I went on for my graduate degree at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. I received my M.A. in Law in Diplomacy. I was awarded research grants by the Shell Foundation and Organization of American States to conduct my doctoral research in Venezuela. The topic of my Ph.D. dissertation was “Energy Policy and Social Development in Venezuela.” I worked for the Minister of Planning of the Republic of Venezuela and joined Bank of America’s Caribbean Division economics department. I worked for the bank in Venezuela, Brazil, Miami, and San Francisco in economic policy research and corporate finance positions. During my years with the bank I traveled and worked in almost every country in the Western Hemisphere. After completing 20 years of service I entered higher education administration. I have held administrative positions at Michigan State University, San Jose State University, and at Brandeis University. I am currently Dean of Brandeis International Business School and hold the Martin and Ahuva Gross Chair in Financial Markets and Institutions. Throughout my career, I have been involved in organizations related to international relations, trade and commerce. My passions are international travel, Latin American history and culture, and international economics and finance. I enjoy morning runs and tasting ice cream around the world and throughout New England.

Richard W. Stephan

Current Occupation:

Retired in 2007 after a 30-year career in international finance, mostly at Bank of America and Moody's Investors Service, residing in New York City and London and also traveling all over the world for work, including two additional circumnavigations. Currently engaged in the study of landscape painting (both in the Southeast and Mountain West) and active in a local organization, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, that is trying to mitigate the devastating effects of mountaintop removal in Appalachia.



Grant Year: 1973

Title of Project: "The Influence of the Younger Generation in Cultures Outside the United States"

Countries Visited: United Kingdom, France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Egypt, Lebanon, Iran, Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan. Among the many memorable parts of this trip was being in Afghanistan during a military coup that ousted the last stable government that the country was to have for many, many years.

How the grant has affected my life:

It is hard to pinpoint one thing among so many but, in my career in international finance, the ability to communicate effectively with non-U.S. individuals was extremely important; this is perhaps the most valuable benefit to me from the experience. Listening to others is crucial, and the travel-study grant helped me develop this skill.

Brian Evans



Current Occupation:

President, Evans Consulting International, LLC

Grant Year: 1974

Title of Project: “The Grassroots of Nationalism”

Places Visited: Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Iran, Egypt, Cyprus, Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia, Italy, Vatican City, San Marino, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, United Kingdom, and Iceland.

How the grant has affected my life:

This opportunity affected my life in profound and lasting ways. First of all, it enabled me to discuss a subject that was of intense personal interest to me and of major significance to the world at large with people from countries and cultures on three continents. Second, it taught me as much about myself as it did about my research topic, the grassroots of nationalism around the world. And third, it prepared me for a career of international service as an officer of the U.S. Government, as well as for a lifetime of international fellowship as a proud member of the Circumnavigators Club. Since my circumnavigation in 1974, I have tried to justify the Foundation’s faith and trust in me by dedicating my life to public service with the U.S. Government and by contributing to the administration of the Foundation’s grant program at my alma mater, Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service. After working as a foreign service officer, China analyst, and government contractor, I am now partnering with Laurie, my wife of 33 years, in our own firm, Evans Consulting International, LLC, with a focus on using our expertise in psychological type and cross-cultural communication to help individual and corporate clients meet a variety of personal and business challenges.

Jack Leslie



Current Occupation:

Chairman, Weber Shandwick

Grant Year: 1975

Project Title: “The Law of the Seas”

Countries Visited: Iceland, Norway, UK, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Lebanon, Iran, India, Thailand, Singapore, The Philippines, Taiwan, Japan

How the grant has affected my life:

The opportunity to experience so many cultures inspired me to seek a career with global scope. After eight years of working for Senator Ted Kennedy, on issues including foreign policy and trade, I joined a consulting firm in New York. My early assignments took me around the world working on electoral campaigns in new democracies. Later, the firm grew into a global agency and now has over 80 offices in most of the world’s major markets.

Editor’s note:

In addition to rising to the chairmanship of one of the world’s leading public-relations firms, Jack has distinguished himself in international affairs and public service as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations; a communications crisis advisor to domestic and foreign local, regional, and national agencies; an expert witness before the U.S. Congress; the White House-appointed Chairman of the U.S. African Development Foundation; a member of the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid of the USAID; the former Chairman of the Board for the USA and 2011 honoree of the UN refugee Agency (UNHRC) and participant in its missions to Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Tanzania; a member of the Board of Advisors of the Duke Global Health Institute; and the long-serving vice-president and a director of the Circumnavigators Club Foundation.

Henry (Hank) Shea



Current Occupation:

Senior Distinguished Fellow, UST School of Law
Fellow, Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership
Adjunct Professor, University of Arizona Rogers College of Law

Grant Year: 1977

Title of Project: "The Effects of Expropriation by U.S. Multinational Corporations in the Developing World"

Countries Visited: Visited Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Senegal, Kenya, Sudan, Egypt, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Singapore, and Indonesia

How the grant has affected my life:

My circumnavigation opportunity was probably the best educational experience of my life. It greatly expanded upon what I already had learned at Georgetown. Moreover, it taught me life lessons about the value of other beliefs and cultures, the wonders of friendship and hospitality, and the blessings of being a U.S. Citizen. My travels influenced my decision to attend a law school with an international reputation, serve in the U.S Army in a Pentagon position with international responsibilities, and continue to venture abroad whenever possible. Although I have spent much vacation time in about 20 countries since my circumnavigation in 1977, nothing will ever compare to that magical summer of setting out with backpack and sleeping bag, conducting more than 40 interviews in eight countries, and reveling in excursions to Machu Picchu, the Great Pyramid, and the Taj Mahal along the way. I still treasure memories of my trip and always will.

Ruth Barnhouse Story

Current occupation:

Broker with Keller Williams International Realty

Grant Year: 1978

Title of Project: “Ending and Preventing World Hunger: A Study of Challenges and Successes”

How the grant has affected my life:

My grant made it possible for me to visit a diverse group of agencies working to prevent and end world hunger. I was able to visit many of their ongoing relief and development projects and study non-profit vs. governmental agencies, whether or not they worked together, what they were able to accomplish, what challenges they faced, what they were doing well, what factors they were working to change, and what elements they saw that were ongoing issues they assumed would always affect their efforts. Writing the study and traveling to the locations to gather primary source material was invaluable. Interviewing such a diverse group of people, all working toward a similar goal, I gained insight that followed a consistent thread. The agencies with the highest level of success had focus and persistence, patience and cultural sensitivity, and a commitment to carrying out their plans with diligence, while remaining open to new ideas that would increase their effectiveness. They were passionate about design and innovation, but even more crucial, about the execution of ideas and ongoing evaluations based primarily on the feedback from those they wanted to help. This insight became a key part of the foundation for everything I have pursued since my circumnavigation. I worked for many years with World Vision International Relief & Development and was involved with many aspects of their ongoing work to prevent and end hunger. Marriage and the desire to have a stable and healthy family, led me to a shift in my choice of careers. Real estate allows me to have a flexible schedule, and the resources available to set aside time to volunteer helping children which will always be a passion for me. For the moment, I may be helping them with the "hunger to read," or their families with the "hunger to settle" in a land that offers freedom, without leaving their own cultures behind. I will continue to practice the thread I found common to success as I circumnavigated the globe: focus and persistence, patience and cultural sensitivity, a commitment to carrying out plans with diligence while remaining open to new ideas that will increase effectiveness, a passion for design and innovation, with a still higher priority placed on the execution of ideas and ongoing evaluations based primarily on the feedback from those I hope to help. My heartfelt thanks extends to the Circumnavigators Club for providing the opportunity that allowed me to gain this insight.

Jeffrey P. Kelly



Current Occupation:

Cyan Partners –Debt Investor

Grant Year: 1979

Title of Project: “Is the Dollar Becoming Obsolete? A Study in International Monetary Reform”

Countries Visited: England, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, India, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan

How the grant has affected my life:

Wow!!! Being awarded the Circumnavigators Club Foundation grant for me turned out to be a life-changing event. It literally led me down personal and professional roads that have brought me tremendous joy and enrichment. Thirty-two years since my grant in 1979, I have countless fond friendships I’ve developed over the years from being an active member of the Circumnavigators Club. It was on my Foundation grant that I first visited Singapore, and Club members there, which led me to choose to work and live in Singapore years later and enjoy some of the happiest years of my life. From a professional standpoint, it greatly influenced my early career advising companies in international mergers and acquisitions. Notably though, it was the primary research process of conducting first-hand interviews of individuals from different countries around the world on the role of the U.S. dollar left an indelible mark on me of the value of seeking out and learning different points of view, particularly from those not in one’s immediate circle, that I continue to draw upon today. I still cherish the memories of the selection process in Circum Ray Dinsmore’s apartment overlooking the United Nations and the many memories from the actual trip, which of course ignited a love for even more journeys overseas that continue to this day with my family.

Janet Strube



Current Occupation:

Financial manager for non-profit organization

Grant Year: 1980

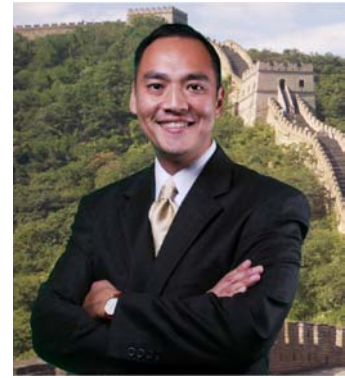
Title of Project: “Alternative Energy Resources to Oil”

Countries Visited: Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, India, Italy, Austria, Germany, Denmark, Belgium, and the Netherlands

How the grant has affected my life:

Over 30 years ago, the Circumnavigators Club Foundation honored me with a very rare opportunity - that was to circumnavigate the globe in one direction while studying about alternative energy sources. The alternative energy projects I visited ranged from hydroelectric in the mountains of Thailand, to biogas pig farms in Taiwan, solar projects in Indonesia, and coal powered plants in Germany. Since graduating from Thunderbird in 1981, I have held positions as an investment advisor for three different financial firms both domestic and abroad, enjoyed dabbling in my own antique business and pursuits, and currently am the financial manager for a non-profit organization, Audi Club of North America. When asked how the Circumnavigator scholarship has affected my life-it's simple, one word, DISCOVERY. There are many different ways to learn about our world, its people and its challenges. When given the opportunity to travel and engage with people of various cultures, religions, languages, etc., discovery becomes a two-way process, both theirs and ours. With every country a scholar visits, every person we meet, every step we take into a new place, we are afforded the opportunity to discover the world with our own eyes, and hopefully, help other people discover who we are as well. Many thanks to the Circumnavigators Club and its Foundation for their continued efforts to provide travel study grants to students.

Glenn R. Leong



Current Occupation:

Attorney

Grant Year: 1985

Title of Project: “Press Freedom & Responsibility: The Battle for the News”

Countries Visited: United Kingdom, France, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Egypt, Israel, India, Singapore, Japan

How the grant has affected my life:

Twenty-six years later, I shake my head in amazement: What an incredible opportunity and blessing I received from the Circumnavigators Club Foundation in 1985 to spend the summer researching and traveling round the world. My topic was “Press Freedom & Responsibility: The Battle for the News”. Since that wonderful journey, I have carried several lessons and themes with me to this very day: *Be Thankful Where Your Feet Are*. It’s probably human nature to seek “better” opportunities, greater wealth and “better lives” elsewhere. But I quickly learned that that pursuit can be a fool’s journey. I witnessed the warm hospitality of shopkeepers throughout Istanbul sharing tea with a backpacking stranger - no matter how dusty or simple their little shops were; the joy of children laughing and playing throughout the Middle East - no matter how impoverished they appeared to be; and the sense of accomplishment and professional pride among journalists in Singapore, New Delhi and Tokyo from getting “the scoop” - no matter how tight-lipped, restrictive, or difficult their governments were. In short, I learned that no matter how financially modest or challenging your circumstances, you can still obtain a level of contentment and satisfaction by being happy where your feet are. Take joy in the little things, and the rest will follow. *It’s All About Community*. Journalists and media personalities worldwide taught me to invest in, and reach deep into, the community. Develop your networks and sources. Feel the vibe of the community. And so I have. While I’m an attorney/sole practitioner in Orlando, Florida, I have also invested much in the Greater Orlando area, including serving as President for two years with the Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida; co-founding and serving as Inaugural President of the Greater Orlando Asian American Bar Association; providing years of pro bono service through the Orange County Legal Aid Society; and conducting civil rights restoration seminars with the ACLU. In the end, it’s all about communities, and what we can do, together, to help them prosper and grow. *The Blessings of Liberty*. Finally, I have to report something that I heard rather frequently in 1985 from reporters and journalists I interviewed worldwide. My interview subjects would often say, “They gave you money to do what?!? To research and travel? Only in America....” The lesson here is that no matter how much we, as Americans, complain about this, that and the other, we truly are blessed. Congratulations to the Circumnavigators Club Foundation on the 40th anniversary of the travel-study grants and best wishes to my fellow travelers.

Judith A. Pojda



Current Occupation:

Nutrition Consultant/Actress

Grant Year: 1986

Title of Project: “Food Politics: An Analysis of the Mechanics of World Food Distribution Policies”

Countries Visited: Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo (former Zaire), Kenya, India (including Kashmir and Leh), Singapore, Japan

How the grant has affected my life:

Being awarded the Circumnavigators Club Foundation grant profoundly influenced the entire course of my life. After experiencing the poverty and hunger, especially among women in children in developing countries, and by analyzing the mechanics of a global food system, I knew I had to do something that “would leave the world a little better than I found it”. Because of the Circumnavigators Club Foundation award I was given a full fellowship to Cornell University where I pursued my Ph.D. in International Nutrition and Communications. This led to my work on hunger issues overseas through agencies such as the United Nations World Health Organization, Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. Peace Corps, and Oxfam Netherlands. I worked in direct feeding programs as well as in policy analysis, and was the coordinator of the Agribusiness Accountability Initiative which addressed corporate power and concentration in the global food and agricultural system. Presently, I have created and now perform a solo theater show called “Minty Julep Goes to Foodieland”. The show travels to universities, food conferences, and churches all over the country, and internationally. The show is coupled with an optional workshop on – you guessed it – “Food Politics: How to Make Food Distribution Policies Fair and Equitable”. My entire life has been an outgrowth of the Foundation’s travel grant for which I am so grateful.

Sharon Hudson-Dean

Current Occupation

Foreign Service Officer, Department of State

Grant Year: 1989

Title of Project: “The Political Ramifications of National Language Policies”

Countries Visited: Canada, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, India, Israel, Belgium, France, Switzerland

How the grant has affected my life:

I could easily say that my Foundation scholarship launched me on the path to living abroad and moving and adapting to new cultures and challenging environments. I could also emphasize that it solidified my love of travel and for meeting people from far outside the middle class life of Allentown, PA that I grew up in. Or that the trip put up a wall between me and my peers – I either avoided talking about the second-class train ride through India and the interrogation at Ben Gurion airport, or I found new friends who traveled too, who didn't fear other languages, foreign airports and dodgy cheap hostels. But I think what it did most of all was give me that love of the original that is so rapidly disappearing from much of the world. I want to go places and see what is truly from there, what is unique to that history, what was made by hand through the creativity and drive that only exists in that place. It's sad that we have so little of this in the developed world anymore as consumer and popular culture blends into a universal “modern society.” So as I've done my assignments in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Nepal, Russia, Georgia and Australia, I've looked for the local writers, fashion designers and artisans. But more than that, I've chased after the unique experiences – the weddings, funerals, political gatherings and religious commemorations. It is an honor to attend these events, just as it was an honor to be awarded my Foundation scholarship. And the ride's not over yet.... Thank you to all the Circumnavigator Foundation supporters who helped push me to this life and career.



Troy Trujillo

Current Occupation:

Financial Reporting Consultant, SEC Reporting and Compliance

Grant Year: 1989

Title of Project: “How Government Affects Housing Around the World”

Countries Visited: Great Britain, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Australia, USA (Hawaii)

How the grant has affected my life:

I received my grant in 1989 and the experiences I gained from my travels have had an impact on all the days since that time. I will start off by saying I have only worked for three different companies since I graduated, all based in or near Colorado, and always in a financial or accounting related role. Fortunately, my work has positioned me to continually interact with the global community, both at home and abroad. I am delighted to be able to host international visitors in connection with my work, remembering how other people’s hospitality benefited on my trip me greatly, even if just the smallest of gestures. My circumnavigation also has affected my subsequent international travels. Unfortunately, logistics and other considerations prevented me from visiting Latin America on my trip, but I have made up for that by travelling extensively there in the years since, including Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Columbia and Paraguay (I found the last two to be the most interesting). I learned during my grant-related travels to welcome the challenge of going to places less visited, and these countries reinforced that practice. I am a very cautious traveler, but I am pleased that in my travels I have been fortunate to meet very interesting people who have been very kind and helpful to me. The final way that my travels have affected me has to do with the changes in communications since my circumnavigation, as well as when I did my study abroad program in England. It is simply amazing that today you can arrive internationally and be able to instantly communicate with ease and at no or low cost either back home or anywhere really. The impact of the internet was a topic covered in 1999, and a topic I want to read about, but my point here is that international travel has been improved in so many ways thanks to changes in communications. My travels taught me to truly appreciate this change exponentially. So when I think about these affects I basically reflect back to the club’s purpose to encourage global fellowship and understanding. I also look at the club’s goal, “Through Friendship, To Leave This World A Little Better Than We Found It.” I have practiced these in all the days since I returned from my own initial travels. If I ever had the chance to work in a foreign embassy or live abroad again, I would do so as it would be a great chance to continue to practice all these lessons learned. In the meanwhile, I look forward to my next international opportunity and interactions.

Virginia J. Cheng

Current Occupation:

Senior Financial Officer, The World Bank, Treasury Operations

Grant Year: 1992

Title of Project: “Displaced Persons and Refugees in Countries of Transit: A review of conditions and structural support available to displaced persons and refugees in countries of transit while seeking permanent asylum”

Countries Visited: Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Singapore, Hong Kong, Philippines, Canada

How the grant has affected my life:

The experience of my fellowship has resounded with me over the course of my career by emphasizing the importance of achieving a sense of “good.” My study gave me perspective on everyday life when compared to the lives of so many people who were dealing with the profound changes and difficulties related to being displaced from their homes, largely the result of a lack of “good” in their home countries, for one reason or another. So much else pales in comparison. While I did not stay in the humanitarian sector for my career and instead entered finance, this need to achieve a sense of “good” led to me to first position, at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, working for a public good, and eventually to my current position at the World Bank in Washington D.C., an organization which strives to alleviate the world of poverty. Although my study occurred nearly 20 years ago, the perspective it gave me to understand the world in a larger context and the need to achieve a sense of “good” has stayed with me, for which I am grateful.

Margaret (Giummo) Hutzel

Current Occupation:

Mother and Philanthropist

Grant Year: 1993

Topic of study: “Comparative Economic Systems”

Countries Visited: England, Cameroon, India, Thailand, China, Hong Kong

How the grant has affected my life:

My greatest journey since receiving my Around-the-World Study Grant has been life itself. Given the opportunity to travel while expanding my education was an immeasurable experience for which I will always be grateful. My focus of study, on the grant and in school, was developmental economics. I held a sincere interest in the plight of the people struggling through harsh economic and political change, in all regions of the globe. I was in awe of the possibilities that lay before them, and hoped to be a part of the change. Upon graduation, I set out to begin my career in my field of study. In a serendipitous turn, I decided to take a few months off to see New York City. When I got back to my "real life," so I thought, I would continue with my pursuit of international economic diplomacy. never made it back to my "real life". While pursuing my career in New York City, I married. I actually required that my future husband be interested in "intrepid travel" before I would consider him for marriage. I put him to the test, on a three week excursion through Iceland's interior. Today, he is as passionate a traveler as I am. We now live on the North Shore of Long Island, with our three young children. As an unintended stay-at-home mother, I began taking on a philanthropic role in our community. I have worked with local non-profits in helping raise much needed funding through planning events, and have now begun a private party planning service. Travel has remained an important part of my life and my parenting philosophy. Living amongst the excess and affluence of our community, my husband and I have made a conscious effort to expose our children to other standards of living. My three children are well travelled, all holding passports since birth. They all attend a Quaker-affiliated school, where diversity and community service are key components of their education. We hope this will become part of their standard of living, showing compassion and interest in the people and world around them, and leaving the world a little better than how they found it!

Terena Cardwell

Current Occupation

Travel Manager
World Race Productions

Grant Year: 1996



Title of Project: Global Study of Primate Care and Research Facilities

Countries Visited: United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Germany, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan

How the grant has affected my life:

This was my first trip abroad, and inspired a love of travel that has endured for over a decade. As a result of the new-found passion, I spend most of my 20s traveling around the world as a company manager for theatrical productions. With VEE Corp, I took Sesame Street Live to Europe, Australia, Canada and Korea. With the magician David Copperfield, I traveled throughout Europe and Japan. On my own I have cruised the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, and visited places such as Bali, New Zealand and Morocco. I also became a Certified Specialist of Wine and worked a season in Napa Valley. For the last two and half years, I have been working for “The Amazing Race”, obtaining visas and film permits for this 8-time Emmy-winning reality program that circumnavigates twice a year, and brings audiences along for the ride. As a result, I think of my own circumnavigation and how it brought me here almost every day. I am also currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding from California State University Dominguez Hills. The desire to help end intercultural conflict was also inspired by my experiences on my circumnavigation.

Isabel Dominicis Dewey

Current Occupation:

Management Consultant, IBM

Grant Year: 1998

Title of Project: “Political Parties and Social Issues”

Countries Visited: Singapore, Malaysia, Greece, UK, Spain

How the grant has affected my life:

It made me more independent, made me appreciate our global differences and provided a true global outlook. After my trip, I graduated from Florida State, served as a lobbyist, then attended the University of Chicago to obtain a Masters in Public Policy. I was hired by IBM from Chicago to be a government consultant. My job has evolved and I am now the Content Services Lead for Global Business Services, the Consulting arm of IBM. I lead a team of 60 individuals globally as we collect intellectual capital and make it accessible to consultants worldwide. On the personal front, I married my high school sweetheart in 2001. We have three sons, Evan - age six, Daniel - age four, and Gabriel - 16 months. Needless to say, there's never a dull moment!

Karim Sadjadpour



Current Occupation:

Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Grant Year: 1999

Title of Project: “The Internet’s Impact on Global Communication”

Countries Visited: Italy, Sweden, Egypt, India, Singapore

How the grant has affected my life:

My circumnavigation around the globe in the summer of 1999 had a profound impact on my education, my career, and my life. As an undergraduate at the University of Michigan, I studied Political Science and film. I was interested in Latin America and Europe, and had studied and worked abroad in Mexico, Spain, and Italy. When I was awarded the grant, Al Thomas from the Michigan chapter gently suggested that I visit the Middle East. Though my parents hailed from Iran, I had never spent time in the Middle East and hadn’t thought of visiting. I really admired Al and wanted to heed his wisdom, so I added Egypt to my itinerary. While each of the countries I visited was transfixing, the two and a half weeks I spent in Egypt were transformational. When I came back to the United States I began to read voraciously about the Middle East, especially Iran, which at the time appeared on the cusp of political change. I worked for two years at the National Geographic Society in Washington DC, and before commencing graduate school at the John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) I spent the summer of 2001 traveling throughout Iran. Three weeks into graduate school at SAIS, September 11th happened. If I had any looming doubts about my career path it kind of crystallized for me at that moment that I wanted to work on the Middle East, and U.S. foreign policy toward the Middle East. After finishing graduate school in May 2003, I took a job with an organization called the International Crisis Group—which seeks to prevent and resolve violent conflicts—based in Tehran. The experience of living and working in Iran was invaluable for me, but soon it became unsafe and I left in late 2005—shortly after Mahmoud Ahmaidnejad became president—after narrowly escaping imprisonment. In 2007 I joined the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the oldest think tank in the United States. My job often feels at the intersection of the worlds of government, academia, media, and above all policy. I frequently meet with officials from the White House and State Department, and have testified numerous times before Congress. I am also able to participate in the public debate and discussion on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, in media outlets such as the New York Times, the Economist, NPR, CNN, and, my personal highlight, the Colbert Report. I can say with near certainty that none of this would have been possible had I never received the generous Circumnavigator’s Club grant, and for that reason I am forever indebted to the organization, and for the wisdom that Al Thomas gave me a little over a decade ago.

Ariana Lazar

Current Occupation

Policy analyst

Year grant received: 2001

Title of Project: “Dollarization, Currency Boards, and Monetary Unions: Trends and Implications”

Countries Visited: Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Germany, Italy, Romania, China, Hong Kong

How the grant has affected my life:

During the summer of 2001, as a result of being awarded one of the Circumnavigators Club Foundation’s research-travel grants, I embarked on a fascinating journey into the world of flexible and fixed exchange rate systems, currency board arrangements, dollarized economies, and unified currency areas. During my 79 days around the world, I met several economists and researchers who conveyed their views, predictions, and research findings on the trends and implications of global exchange rate systems. I traveled to places I would not have otherwise been able to visit at such a young age and came to appreciate the importance of conversing in the local language. It was an extraordinary learning experience, which allowed me to appreciate other cultures and traditions, as well as meet some extraordinary people. It enabled me to grow and broadened my perspectives, helping me break into the investment banking industry in New York City after I graduated from college. I continue to enjoy traveling in the United States and abroad. I was born in Romania and moved to the United States in 1997 at the age of eighteen. I hold an M.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a B.A. in International Studies, Economics, and French from the University of Miami (FL). I speak Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian. I work as a policy analyst in the Washington DC area, where I live with my husband Joe.



Aalap Shah



Current Occupation:

I started my own social enterprise (108 Mala) that focuses on helping fair trade female artisans with income generation and livelihood – while designing, creating, and connecting organic and green products to customers all over the world. I also consult for international development organizations around economic development, agricultural supply chains, and supporting the working poor (informal sector, farmers, marginalized communities). I am currently a consultant for the Global Fairness Initiative.

Grant Year: 2002

Title of Project: “Global Perception Review: An analysis of university students’ perceptions of U.S. foreign policy pre-and post- 9/11”

Countries Visited: United Kingdom, Germany, Czech Republic, Russia, Turkey, Egypt, India, Thailand, China, Japan, United States.

How the grant has affected my life:

Being a Circumnavigators Club Foundation Scholar vastly and deeply affected my life. Upon my return, I committed my life and career to helping those less fortunate and bridging the divide between communities. To see other cultures and lifestyles made me realize how similar we are – but more importantly, how I had an obligation to support the voiceless, the marginalized, and poor. I am often traveling the world, dedicating my experiences to non-violence and peace, respecting our environment and animals, and finding beauty and compassion wherever I go. Along with 108 Mala, I have worked with the William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service, American India Foundation, the Corporate Executive Board's Business Banking Board, and the Global Fairness Initiative – all with a focus around helping women gain access to rights and gainful employment. I graduated from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, studied at University College London and am currently residing in Brooklyn, NY training for my next triathlon.

Michael J. Coccaro



Current Occupation:

Attorney

Grant Year: 2002

Title of Project: An International Comparison of Living Costs and Subsidies for Senior Citizens

Countries Visited: China, Russia, Greece, Norway, South Africa, Jamaica, Costa Rica

How the grant has affected my life:

Being awarded the Circumnavigators Scholarship changed me in many profound ways. First, and most immediately, the Foundation's support -- as well as the support of the Desert Chapter -- allowed me to research an area of genuine interest to me. Having studied economics and a focus on gerontology, I was concerned about the social support networks available to citizens in different countries. The research I conducted was fascinating. Second, the award allowed me to really explore my own personal limits and allowed me to learn and develop as a person. Travelling around the world alone is a unique experience that I suspect I will not have the opportunity to do again. The lessons I learned about myself helped shape who I am as an adult. After completing my circumnavigation, I graduated with honors from the Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University. I went on to law school at the University of Washington School of Law and returned to Arizona to begin my career as an attorney. I met my wife in law school and she, like I, are avid travelers. We spent our honeymoon in South Africa -- a country I first fell in love with on my circumnavigation. Knowing the impact the Foundation had on me, I wanted to give back. When I returned to Arizona I re-connected with the Desert Chapter of the Circumnavigators Club and have served as its President for the past two years. When my term is up, I look forward to working closely with Arizona State University in connection with the scholarship.

Matthew Scholder



Current Occupation:

Equity Research Analyst at MFS Investment Management

Grant Year: 2003

Title of Project: “Developing Renewable Energy Resources: An Analysis of Disparate Domestic Strategies for Meeting the Global Challenge”

Countries Visited: Sao Tome, Norway, Russia, India, South Korea, Japan

How the grant has affected my life:

After graduating from Georgetown, I got a job as a research analyst at a firm called the Energy Intelligence Group (EIG). During the interview, I gave the research director a copy of my final report to the Circumnavigators Foundation. He skimmed my conclusions and seemed intrigued, but what really caught his attention was the acknowledgements section. In it, I thanked all the various people in government and international organizations I met during my trip. As it turned out, my interviewer had worked very closely with several of the people I thanked. I got the job because of what I learned and the people I met as a foundation scholar. From EIG, I went on to work for a fellow Foundation Scholar, Sarah Endline, at a chocolate company she founded called sweetriot. This amazing learning experience would have never presented itself had I not met Sarah on the Board of the Circumnavigators Foundation. From sweetriot, I went to Harvard Business School and then into my current role as an Equity Research Analyst at MFS Investment Management. I was accepted to business school and obtained the job I wanted after graduation because of the story I was able to tell about my Circumnavigators experience and where it led me both personally and professionally in the years after. That is why, in many ways, I consider the Circumnavigators trip a defining moment in my life and one of the greatest things that has ever happened to me.

Nouvelle L. (Stubbs) Gonzalo



Current Occupation

Attorney

Grant Year: 2004

Title of Project: “Multi-Cultural Approaches to Conflict Resolution”

Countries Visited: United States, China, Thailand, Taiwan, India, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Nigeria, Ghana, and Germany.

How the grant has affected my life:

The primary objective of my travel-study project was to research and analyze multi-cultural approaches to conflict resolution through examining different sectors of society - military, business, education, law, academics, NGOs, and everyday citizens. My grant affected me on both a personal and professional level. Personally, my trip exposed me to a variety of different cultures and individuals. As a result, whenever I meet people with ties to the countries I visited, I am able to connect with them in a way someone unfamiliar with their homelands cannot. This ability allows me to show them the interest that I and others have in them and their culture. Creating this instant sense of community has been true whether meeting individuals in passing, learning with them in an academic setting, or working with them professionally. This sense of community, connecting and helping others outside our regular circle of influence, is exactly what the *Circumnavigator’s Club* promotes. This is one way we leave the world better than we found it. Professionally, the impact of my *Circumnavigator’s Club* experience has been profound and far-reaching. I was able to work with professors at NYU to create three classes based on my grant-supported research, enabling me to graduate one semester early. I also submitted a copy of my research paper to the U.S. State Department for a more practical use and impact on U.S. foreign policy. After graduation from NYU, I served as an English language interpreter for the Spanish Air Force and as an English language professor in Seville for one year. I then attended law school at Ohio State where I studied U.S. and international business law. I deepened my international interest, first sparked by the *Circumnavigators Club*, by completing some of my legal studies at Oxford University. I then worked for in-house counsel at an international corporation; on international legal matters for a private law firm; and completed a one-year fellowship with a law firm in Madrid specialized in international arbitration. Currently, I have my own practice in U.S. and international business law. I have two locations and plan to expand into additional offices in the U.S. and overseas. My experience with the *Circumnavigator’s Club* was life-changing and I will be forever grateful to the Club for such a unique opportunity. I want to continue to give back to Club financially and support its newly minted Foundation Scholars. Last but not least, I hope to locate, connect, and reach out to other Circumnavigators in the Cleveland, Ohio region.

Sarah Rose Graber



Current Occupation:

Actress and Teaching Artist

Grant Year: 2004

Title of Project: “Theatre for Social Change: Understanding how theatre can be used as a tool for communication and education around the world to encourage change”

Countries visited: England, South Africa, Kenya, Mauritius, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina

How the grant has affected my life:

The Foundation’s grant has easily been one of the best experiences of my life. As a junior at Northwestern, I was beyond thrilled to have the opportunity to circumnavigate the globe and study theatre for social change, a topic that has been a passion of mine since high school. I didn’t grow up in a wealthy family and the chance to travel on such a large scale would have been completely out of reach had it not been for the Foundation. My research focused on how theatre can be an effective tool in communicating and educating communities to encourage change. On my trip, I met with theatre companies, advocacy groups, directors, playwrights, artists, community members, and others. From interviews, performances, and wandering the streets, I was afforded a profound global perspective on my topic and returned armed with questions and filled with exciting answers about the cutting-edge nature of my work. I created a one-woman show called “Time for Take-Off!” chronicling my travels which was performed at Northwestern University, for the Circumnavigator Club of Chicago, and for schools in the Chicagoland area. I then started teaching classes on theatre for social change and began to explore many of my learned skills in performance. Since then, artists I quoted in my research have become my mentors and colleagues, and strangers I met on my trip have become close friends. I constantly use what I learned during my travels in the classes I teach and in my performances. But most importantly, the grant enabled me to grow and become more of myself. It instilled a sense of confidence, purpose, desire to be effective in my work, a sense of responsibility to proudly represent my country and the Circumnavigators Club, and a drive to travel and think about my work globally. Most recently, I devised and co-directed a performance piece with my theatre company, Adventure Stage Chicago, about the immigrant-services organization Northwestern University Settlement House, which featured both professional actors and other performers from the community. It was a true example of theatre for social change and another of the many connections to my circumnavigation research that has continued to propel me forward in this line of work. I will forever be grateful for the experience to travel around the world and am always immensely proud of the company I keep as a Foundation Scholar. Thanks for the support and here’s to another 40 years of the Foundation!

Daniel P. Dozier



Current Occupation:

Chief of Staff, US Ambassador's Residence
Paris, France

Grant Year: 2005

Title of Project: “Tourism & Its Discontents: Six Case Studies of Globalization and (Un)Sustainable Development”

Countries Visited: Morocco, South Africa, Madagascar, Singapore, Australia, Canada

How the grant has affected my life:

I am currently serving the U.S. Ambassador to France and Monaco, Charles H. Rivkin and his wife, Susan M. Tolson, as chief of staff of their official residence in Paris. The historic residence serves as the American diplomatic and social hub in France, welcoming over ten thousand guests throughout the year for tours, symposia, concerts, celebrations, meetings, meals and other functions promoting Franco-American bonds. In addition to my responsibilities running the Ambassador’s Residence, I also oversee the management of the Hotel de Talleyrand, formerly part of the US Embassy and now home to the George Marshall Center. I manage meeting and event requests for the Residence and Marshall Center from all departments and sections of the embassy, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as well as various embassy-affiliated groups. Prior to assuming this role in Paris, I worked as director of international fundraising for the Obama campaign in Chicago and later for the Presidential Inaugural Committee. The Circumnavigators Club Foundation around-the-world travel-study grant made me realize just how small - and simultaneously enormous - the world is and helped me see the connections between actions on one side of the planet with those being made on the other. The world suddenly became a global community, less divided and compartmentalized in my mind reinforcing the concept of a global citizenry of which I now feel a part. The people I met and the stories I heard about life in places I may never return to will always stay with me and are a major motivation to work in public service at an international level: to try to make a difference and improve the lives of others. While I don't feel I'm there yet, I am trying to forge a path and meet the people who can help me get there down the road. It has been an incredible journey, but I still feel I am only at the beginning of the adventure! There's just so much to see and do on this amazing planet!

Douglas Gibbons



Current Occupation:
Applications Scientist

Grant Year: 2005

Title of Project: “Legume Intake and Cancer Impacts Around the World”

Countries Visited: Jamaica, England, Switzerland, Italy, Tanzania, Thailand, and South Korea

How the grant has affected my life:

I currently work as an Applications Scientist for a division of Roche Pharmaceuticals, known as Ventana Medical Systems. I aid pathologists in the optimization of antibody stains which diagnosis various forms of cancer in clinical medicine. I have enjoyed working in this capacity for the last three years. Prior to my position with Roche, I worked in the San Francisco Bay Area as an Associate Scientist at Cell Genesys Inc. CGI provided me an opportunity to hone some of the skills I mastered during my Circumnavigators Club Foundation Around-the-World Grant trip. Specifically, I practiced methods of cloning, histology and Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) while at CGI and these were all valuable methods I utilized during my trip around the world. I received my grant in 2005 while attending Michigan State University where I studied Nutritional Sciences. Some memorable highlights during my trip include skydiving over the Swiss Alps and climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. On the research side, I aided scientists at University of West Indies in Kingston in identifying phytochemicals contained within legumes. I also was able to meet up with a Michigan State study abroad group and visit the World Health Organization, World Trade Organization and Food and Agriculture Organization where we sat in on legislative functions and world talks regarding beans and lentil yield, farming and distribution. The Circumnavigators Club Foundation grant has positively impacted my life in a number of ways. It broadened my views on world travel, the way Americans are viewed abroad, and provided in-depth knowledge on ways legumes mitigate cancer around the world. I will forever be grateful for the Foundation’s generosity and owe much of my initial success in the workforce to the lessons I learned while traveling. I have always been adventurous, but with my trip around the world I learned to be even more self-sufficient. Recently, I gained my scuba diving certification and plan to travel abroad to take advantage of this new found love. Best wishes and travel on!

Susannah Cunningham



Current occupation:

Development Director at the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

Grant Year: 2005

Title of Project: "Formalizing Informal Markets - How NGOs are working on-the-ground to formalize illusive informal markets and communities"

Countries Visited: Morocco, Egypt, Uganda, Rwanda, India, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico

How the grant has affected my life:

Since I left Northwestern, I moved to Cairo on a fellowship in 2008 to work for a refugee rights organization. I left that organization after a fantastic experience in January 2009, and founded a new refugee legal clinic in Cairo, the Resettlement Legal Aid Project (RLAP), specializing in an under-served element of refugee rights defense. The clinic started out as a small operation, but is now an implementing partner of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, has served thousands of refugees from Africa and the Middle East. and is funded by a host of international donors as well as the U.S. State Department's Center for Refugee and Population Migration. I have gone on to work for other human rights and development non-profits and projects, but remain on the board of RLAP and its stewarding organization, St. Andrew's Refugee Services. I am incredibly grateful for the precious time and experience I accrued during my Circumnavigators Club Foundation around-the-world travel-study trip - it both challenged the way I conceived of the world and reinforced the faith I have in it to change...something that was displayed in full-bloom as the city I live in broke out into its revolutionary winter and spring in Egypt.

Alex Robins



Current Occupation:

Graduate Student

Grant Year: 2006

Title of Project: “ Drawn East: A Comparative Study of Political Cartoons”

Countries Visited: England, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey, UAE, South Africa, Tanzania, India, Thailand, Korea.

How the grant has affected my life:

The Circumnavigators Club has been incredibly important to me. The Foundation was the first to support my research into political cartoons and visual art. It was this early encouragement that set me on the path I'm on now. With the confidence that the Foundation Scholar program gave me I've continued to write and research the visual arts. Most recently, I completed a Fulbright Scholarship in Ireland where I studied art history. I'm currently a PhD candidate at Emory University in philosophy with a focus in aesthetics. I continue to work on ideas that came to me while visiting artists in Europe, Africa, and Asia as a Foundation Grantee - ideas I hope to develop into a long and active career.

Megan C. (McGinnity) Brand

Current Occupation:

Economist and educational consultant

Grant Year: 2006

Title of project: “The Economics of Human Trafficking”

Countries visited: Belgium, Switzerland, Ghana, Rwanda, India, Cambodia, Thailand, Singapore, Costa Rica, Mexico

How the grant has affected my life:

I am the founder of Brand Enterprises, an economic and educational consulting firm and have conducted research in multiple academic fields across the globe for the past six years, edited academic journal articles, and published research on international cooperation theory. The Circumnavigator’s Club Foundation Scholarship enabled me to apply economic theory, which explained how certain trafficking markets exist, to actual case studies based on interviews around the globe with trafficked persons, nonprofit organizations, and government officials. The research became the basis of my undergraduate thesis and led to numerous public awareness speeches on trafficking as well as further research and study. I have since completed masters degrees in Middle East Politics at the University of London and in Forced Migration at the University of Oxford. The trip-around-the-world continues to influence my professional and personal interests. My work has been recognized by the *Glamour Magazine* and *USA Today* and contributed to my receiving the Marshall and Truman Scholarships for further study. In addition to multiple research projects on various aspects of trafficking, I continue to use the economic skills developed through my analysis to assist businesses and policymakers in various areas of research through my firm, Brand Enterprises. I am also passionate about helping students put together highly competitive proposals for study and advising them through all aspects of admissions and scholarship applications. I am an avid traveler and enjoy every opportunity to see new parts of the world. I met my husband while studying in Egypt, and now reside with him and my daughter in Colorado.

Nick Miede



Current Occupation:

Project Manager, Column Five Media

Grant Year: 2006

Title of Project: “Microfinance, Social Capital, and Female Empowerment”

Countries Visited: Ecuador, El Salvador, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Bangladesh, Tanzania, UAE, Morocco

How the grant has affected my life:

Whenever I’m asked to describe my experience as a Foundation Scholar, the one word I always return to is ‘transformative.’ How has the experience transformed my life? I researched microfinance as a Scholar, but as a professional I do not work in the industry. So, why do I consistently describe my time as a Circumnavigators Scholar as transformative? Because everything I’ve done since my trip around the world has been shaped by the experience. Every important decision I’ve made since my trip has been informed by the experience. And nothing I’ve done since has rivaled the experience. Today, I work at a new media creative agency called Column Five. We specialize in the creation and promotion of graphic-based content -- mainly infographics. A big part of my job is coming up with compelling content for infographics and a number of our clients are concerned with matters of international affairs. I could tell you about the ways in which having done research in so many parts of the world has helped me cultivate ideas for our infographics, but this actually isn’t the primary way in which the Scholar experience has transformed my life. More than anything, I believe the Foundation Scholarship is about communication. The Circumnavigators Club’s mission, “through friendship, to leave this world a little better than we found it,” reminds us that friendship is a vehicle for good. I made many friends while traveling as a Foundation Grantee – some with whom I still keep in touch! Friendship is not measured by duration though. Those I met along my trip that left an impression in a moment of friendship, if not a lifetime, have been no less important in shaping my life. They communicated to me in a very personal and human way made possible only by the Foundation’s generous decision to fund my research. Today, I am in the business of communication. Perhaps the content I create, or contribute to, does not actually make me friends in the traditional sense. The impact of that content, however, is hopefully no less powerful than the impact I experienced as I did make friends along the way of my circumnavigation. The Foundation Scholarship transformed my understanding of the power of communication. Every day I make contact, sometimes reaching the far corners of the globe. I am very lucky to be able put faces to the names of those far corners of the globe, a helpful reminder that the messages we broadcast matter to individuals we may never know and should not be taken lightly. They should hopefully be leaving the world better than we’ve found it. This is the message I took back with me from my circumnavigation, a message that guides me daily.

Christopher Ahern



Current Occupation:

Ph.D. Candidate,
University of Pennsylvania

Grant Year: 2007

Title of Project: “ Portuguese Language Politics and the Future of English as a Global Language”

Countries Visited: Macau (SAR), India, Mozambique, Portugal, Cape Verde, and Brazil

How the grant has affected my life:

After my circumnavigation I graduated from Northwestern University (2008) with a B.A. in Linguistics and spent the following two years working as a search engine technology consultant. In the fall of 2010 I entered the Ph.D. program in linguistics and began a traineeship at the Institute for Research in Cognitive Science at the University of Pennsylvania. This past June I asked my girlfriend of five years to marry me....she said "yes"! We will be getting married June 2, 2012, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and she has either very wisely, or very foolishly, entrusted me with planning the honeymoon. Around the world in a week or two doesn't quite have the same ring to it, so another circumnavigation will have to wait. Until then I can only pause and reflect on the ways the grant has shaped my life. This trip gave me a chance to view language through an ever-changing lens of scale and location, from an individual conversation to the national and global debates that shape the way we use the very thing that makes us human. This perspective, broad as it may be, is only fitting given how thoroughly language pervades our lives and is a constant source of inspiration in my continued research. In addition, and far more importantly, these travels have confirmed that the Circumnavigators Club motto – *To Leave This World A Little Better Than We Found It* - is as pervasive as language, and my life has been left all the better for the friends that I met along the way.

Elspeth Williams



Current Occupation:

Chief of Staff to President of Global Development Program,
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Grant Year: 2007

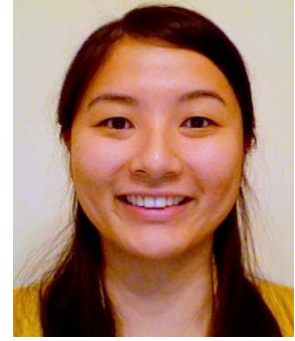
Title of Project: “Caring for Our Next Generation: Travels and Encounters with Children Orphaned and Made Vulnerable by HIV/AIDS”

Countries Visited: South Africa, Kenya, India, Thailand, Cambodia, China, Brazil, Argentina

How the grant has affected my life:

Reflecting on how Steve Jobs’ admonition to the graduating class at Stanford University to “connect the dots” looking backward in the hope that they will somehow influence the future relates to my own experience, my travel-study circumnavigation is indeed a most critical dot to which most others connect. My trip took me to extraordinary places, broadened my horizons and emboldened my wanderlust. As a young woman from small town America holding big dreams, it was a trip that would have been unfathomable without the moral and financial support of the Circumnavigators Club Foundation. The journey solidified my conviction to pursue a career in service to others. My overseas experiences immediately enriched my classroom learning and I was eager to try to apply my research in the real world. After graduation, despite the recession and my relative lack of experience, I found that my around-the-world research project gave me a professional edge and I landed a fellowship with CARE Rwanda. My supervisor later told me that my travel-study experience that won her over in my interview. In Rwanda, luckily, my circumnavigation travels had served as practice in the art of cross-cultural communication, daily sunscreen application, and deft navigation of foreign environments. A year later I joined CARE’s Eastern and Central Africa Regional Management Unit. At the end of my second year there, an opportunity to serve as a research analyst the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation presented itself and during the interview process, I was again able to cite my travel-study grant travels as important global research experience. A few months later I became Chief of Staff to the foundation’s president. Working at the foundation has been a dream come true; its mission is in line with my own -- that all lives have equal value and that all people should have the opportunity to lead healthy, productive lives. I am learning a tremendous amount and am privileged to work on issues of critical global importance and scale everyday. As I connect the dots along my lucky and privileged course thus far I can cite my travel-study grant as a giant, catalytic dot that has helped me to land my first professional opportunities. I remain forever grateful to the Circumnavigators Club Foundation. The gift to travel the globe, alone, at such a young age, and with such latitude, was nothing short of magical, transformative, and enlightening. A formative experience, personally and professionally.

Ke Wu



Current Occupation:

High School Chemistry Teacher as a Teach for America Corps Member

Grant Year: 2008

Title of Project: “Pedagogical Approaches towards Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Children: An Analysis of Education-based Non-Governmental Organizations Around the World”

Countries visited: Peru, Romania, Tanzania, Mongolia, and India

How the grant has affected my life:

My circumnavigation deepened my passion for educational development and transformed my perspective on global realities. Having seen and experienced the lives of children abroad, I was convinced of the power within education to overcome deep poverty. Though I was impressed by the innovation and dedication at each organization I visited, I realized that the systemic problem cannot and will not be eradicated without a larger force. I came home from the trip shifting my entire life’s course in service of children everywhere. I want to understand, find, and eventually develop education solutions, which has led to my current occupation: a high school chemistry teacher in south central Los Angeles. Documenting and comparing inequities abroad eventually led me to dig deeper back home in the United States. At the time, I did not fully understand the extent to which our own education system deeply underserved the most disadvantaged communities. Joining the Teach for America Corps was the next logical step to mapping out the issues that affect our country. I am now wiser and more attune with the grave gap existent in our education system: there are students in high school still unable to perform basic arithmetic operations and unable to write beyond what is considered an early elementary level. These problems need solutions and point to serious flaws in the system. In the future, I intend to take all my experiences into an arena where I may affect a larger sphere of influence. I gained immense perspective on my circumnavigation trip, a unique one that I could not holistically create through the lens of books, accounts, and pictures.

Grayson McClure Badgley



Current Occupation:

Statistician at entrepreneurial company

Grant Year: 2008

Title of Project: “Small Scale Wind Energy Production for the Sustainable Development of Island Nations”

Countries Visited: Cook Islands, France, Germany, Maldives, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Spain (Canary Islands), Taiwan, United Kingdom

How the grant has affected my life:

Receiving the Circumnavigators Club Foundation Raymond Dinsmore Fellowship has allowed me to pursue both my academic interests and my love for travel. Academically, the research I conducted on my around-the-world travels earned me a place in the University of Oxford’s Environmental Change and Management master’s program. While my research interests have gravitated toward the physical sciences, my summer spent chasing wind turbines around the globe kicked it all off. I graduated from Oxford in September 2010, after which I took a research position at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab in Los Angeles. Most recently, I relocated to San Francisco where I am working as a statistician for a small start-up. We are doing well and with any luck I will have the fortune to help open new offices across the globe in the coming years. The past few years have also afforded ample opportunity for travel. I spent two field seasons in Belize, conducting research on Maya agriculture with a team based out the D.C. area. I also traveled throughout Europe with my Oxford cohort. We spent a wonderful week biking through Belgium and two weeks outside of Rome after our exams. We’ve tentatively scheduled a reunion next summer canoe tripping through Canada’s Algonquin Park.

Jefferson (Mac) Steele



Current Occupation:

Investment Associate, Bridgewater Associates

Grant Year: 2009

Title of Project: “A Race to the Bottom? Understanding the Impact of IT Enabled Services in Less Developed Countries”

Countries Visited: Czech Republic, Hungary, Egypt, India, Singapore, China

How the grant has affected my life:

The opportunity afforded to me by the Circumnavigators Club Foundation has affected my life in a number of ways. First and foremost, the research trip stoked my curiosity in development economics and emerging markets. The experiences I had while traveling underscored the importance of first-hand experience in understanding new parts of the world. While statistics and reports provide invaluable information about any country, there is a limit on the level of understanding one can obtain without actually being there. Though it is difficult for me to put my finger on it exactly, the casual conversations I had with rickshaw drivers and wanderings through new Chinese construction zones were amazing learning opportunities. I felt a fleeting sense of what motivated people to work so hard, which is the most important dynamic to understand in any economic inquiry. Second, I learned a great deal about myself that has made me more confident to take on new challenges. Whether it is an improved ability to talk to strangers (which one hones quickly when alone overseas) or better haggling skills, I owe much of this to my circumnavigation. More than anything, I owe a profound sense of wanderlust and desire for adventure. I hope to continue exploring and visiting new places. As most who have been as fortunate as me to travel will agree, once you glimpse a new part of the world, the more you realize there is to see. Immediately after graduation, I traveled to China to meet with manufacturers about a potential consumer product that I had worked on with some fellow students during my senior year at Princeton. My experience during my circumnavigation made for a much more productive trip as I was able to leverage some of my previous contacts. I was also able to reunite with some of the kind hosts I had stayed with during my travel. Although the product didn't end up taking off, it was a great experience and furthered my desire to work with (and in) less developed countries. After returning from China, I began working at Bridgewater Associates as an Investment Associate focused on emerging markets research. Though I spend much of my time looking at statistics, I remember the valuable lesson that there is a great deal I don't know about the world and that it would be dangerous and stupid to think I can fully understand what is going on without being there. As I learned while researching, even being there can make the world seem all the more complex. I split my time between New York City and Westport, CT though I aspire to travel again in the near future

Sabala Baskar



Current Occupation:

Analyst, U.S. Government

Grant Year: 2009

Title of Project: “Forgive and Forget? A Comparative Study of Post-Conflict Reconciliation”

Countries Visited: Thailand, India, South Africa, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Northern Ireland

How the grant has affected my life::

After completing my circumnavigation in the summer of 2009, I entered my senior year at Georgetown University. As part of the 5-year joint-degree program, I also started graduate school in the Security Studies Program. Outside of class I interned at the State Department within the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs. I also had the chance to work as a Junior Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, where I collaborated with Ambassador Howard Schaffer to research U.S.-Sri Lankan relations regarding the issue of human rights. I graduated with a B.S. in Foreign Service in May 2010 and then spent two weeks backpacking in Europe with my college roommates. We visited Ireland, France, and Italy. I returned home for about a week before jetting off to south India, where I spent the rest of the summer teaching at the Shanti Bhavan Children’s Project. My main subjects were history, civics, and dance. That fall, I returned to Georgetown to continue with graduate school. While trying to decide on a thesis topic, I kept reminiscing about my wonderful experience as a Circumnavigators Foundation Scholar, and thought it would be fascinating to study ethnic war from another angle. This time I focused on the following research question: *Under what geographic, demographic, and military conditions is territorial partition more likely to prevent war recurrence between ethnic groups?* To answer this question I conducted a qualitative case study of four post-World War II partitions: India/Pakistan (1947), Azerbaijan/Nagorno-Karabakh (1994), Cyprus/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (1974), and Moldova/Transnistria (1992). My general finding was that territorial partition is more likely to prevent war recurrence between ethnic groups if it is done in a way that actually makes both groups feel more secure (i.e. if it creates a “complete” demographic and territorial separation, defensible borders, and a balance of material power between successor states). After graduating with my Masters in May 2011, I spent the summer visiting various family members around the U.S. as well as in India. I returned to D.C. this August to start my new job as an analyst for the U.S. Government. As you know, the traditional Circumnavigators closing is “Luck to You!”, and while more than two years have passed since my trip around the globe, whenever I reflect back on that experience I still feel like the luckiest girl in the world.

Grant Blumberg



Current Occupation:

Teaching for Kaplan TestPrep and attending the University of Miami

Grant Year: 2010

Title of Project: “Waiting for the Doctor: A Multi-country Investigation into Inequalities in Healthcare Availability and Treatment for Historically Underserved Groups”

Countries Visited: New Zealand, Australia, India, South Africa, France, Switzerland, Peru

How the grant has affected my life:

This opportunity was truly a once in a lifetime chance to learn about my topic, myself, and the people of the countries I visited. I was, and continue to be, blown away by the generosity, honesty, honor, and general personable nature of the people I met across the world. I had the chance to really delve into healthcare for the discriminated, and see how their lives have been changes with recent efforts to modernize and streamline health systems. It was amazing to see the progress being made in places such as New Zealand, and absolutely daunting to see the distance still to go to reach equality in places such as South Africa, India, and Peru. The circumnavigation was an excellent time for introspection, as I would imagine most solo trips around the world are, and indeed I learned a great deal about myself. I learned to be truly self-reliant, to trust in the kindness of strangers, and to understand at a basic level that, no matter the trial or triviality, the process will work itself out. Since my trip, I have decided to take an extra year of undergraduate study at the University of Miami, further honing my skills and knowledge base in international relations and political science (as well as business law, Spanish, German, and Portuguese) in a an effort to be completely prepared for graduate school and law school next year. Over the next several years I hope to obtain both a law degree and a master's of public administration, hopefully in international development. It is my hope to use what I have learned and apply it in areas of the world in need of reorganization of their health sectors to better suit the needs of the poor, indigenous, and immigrant populations. While I will admit to some amount of nervousness, I cannot help but feel a certain sense of confidence alongside it, which I must attribute to the Circumnavigators Club and the opportunity all of you gave to me. I cannot thank you enough.

Meixi Ng



Current Occupation:

Advisor and Researcher, Secretariat of Public Education/Mexican Ministry of Education, in the Integral Strategy to Improve Academic Achievement
Princeton in Latin America Fellow in México 2011-2012

Grant Year: 2010

Title of Project: “The Transformative Power of Schools and Communities: A Global Look at the role of Classroom and Community Processes in Social Justice Schools”

Countries Visited: Guatemala, Perú, Singapore, Thailand, Ghana, France

How the grant has affected my life:

How could I ever forget the summer of 2010? Almost every day, I think about last summer. I think about all the schools I visited; I think about the people I met; I think about the precious lessons that I took away and how to apply them in new contexts, in new cultures. That’s when you know a summer is unforgettable. I grew so much during those three months travelling the globe, and I believe the growing has not stopped. Since then, so many doors have opened for me – my trip around the world sparked off a journey that still continues today, a journey that would otherwise not have been possible without the vision and support of the Circumnavigators Club. Because of you, I met people during my trip whose wisdom and insight changed my perspectives on education, taught me to value human life and helped me redefine what “success” means for schools around the world. Aside from these insights, the Circumnavigator trip last summer opened so many more opportunities to lead, serve and be a part of education reform. Today, I work with schools all around Mexico with Redes de Tutoría (formerly Convivencia Educativa) with a Princeton in Latin America fellowship. I am working with the Integral Strategy to Improve Academic Achievement (or EIMLE for its Spanish abbreviation) which is implementing a radical shift in the way lessons are conducted in the classroom: teaching in tutorial relationships, or “relación tutora.” We work with the worst 9,000 schools throughout the country, changing communities from inside the classroom, inside the school, and bringing the joy of learning back to schools.

Hilary K. Nakasone



Current Occupation:

Americorps Paralegal and Legal Advocate

Grant Year: 2010

Countries Visited: Iceland, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, Philippines, Australia

Title of Project: “Enhanced Geothermal Systems: Understanding the Factors Affecting Energy Policy”

How the grant has affected my life:

It has been a little over a year since I completed my circumnavigation of the globe and I am continually finding new ways that the experience has affected me and my perspective on life. Just over a year ago, when I gave my presentation to the Washington D.C. Chapter of the Circumnavigators Club, I spoke about how the opportunity provided me with a renewed passion and deepened understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the field of renewable energy. That passion has not diminished. I am currently working as a paralegal and legal advocate at the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, where I have a unique opportunity to combine my passion for social justice with a budding interest in law. Though this position does not necessarily allow me to directly interact with the renewable energy field, I have found my passion for the subject area remains. I have since become involved as a volunteer with the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum and have become an active follower of the energy movement in Hawaii. I’ve come to realize though, that more than anything else, my experiences afforded by the grant taught me about the interconnected nature of everything from policy to economics to social structure. I learned that effective policy cannot be crafted without a practical understanding of its application—its effects on financial viability, the environment, and most importantly, on communities. My travels taught me that solving the energy problem will not *necessarily* solve the problems posed by development, globalization, and rapidly advancing technology; however, they also gave me the firm resolution that it *can* be an integral part of the equation. The inspiring progress in the Philippines, where energy development also encourages rural development, social responsibility, and community building is a perfect example of how this can be done. This lesson of the connectedness of all aspects of our society shaped the lens through which I looked at my studies in my final year at Georgetown, and has also provided me with my “next step.” Over the course of this year I am applying to joint J.D. and masters programs, with a focus on environmental management and policy. I have come to firmly believe that interdisciplinary learning and communication is the key to moving our society forward. This phenomenal experience has continued to provide me with the passion that fuels my quest for a sustainable society, and given me an inspiring platform from which to jump.