



Professor Bruce Bachenheimer shows his students how to learn beyond the walls of the classroom through international field study trips to places like Tanzania.

Other Pace University students made connections when they traveled the world. Some explored comparative racial and gender politics in the United States and South Africa, combining Professor Chris Malone's political science and Professor Meghana Nayak's understanding of women's and gender studies with a field experience in South Africa to meet students, social activists, and political leaders. **At the graduate level, a group of MBA students were in Africa, exploring entrepreneurship in Tanzania with Professor Bruce Bachenheimer during an intense ten-day field exploration with officials from the University of Dar es Salaam and local entrepreneurs.**

In these cases and many others, Pace students are experiencing an education that breaches the walls of the classroom to enter the virtual world and crosses the physical borders of the globe.

**Visiting provocateurs.** Pace's interconnections with the world also happen closer to home, of course, and outside the classroom. The New York campus student literary magazine, *Aphros*, is advised by University Poet-in-Residence Charles North, winner of this year's prestigious Foundation for Contemporary Arts Prize recognizing outstanding contemporary imaginative artists. Professor North has brought many of his fellow poets and writers to Pace recently, including Ron Padgett, Paul Auster, and Billy Collins.

For its part, the Westchester campus in Pleasantville has become a vital center for renewable energy discussions in Westchester County, hosting monthly "Conversations on Conservation" for local authorities to plan for major issues surrounding sustainability. In May, for instance, Robert Goldstein, a Pace Law alumnus and chief counsel for Riverkeeper, discussed environmental impact issues surrounding plans for refurbishing the Tappan Zee Bridge with members of the Department of Transportation. In April, Katherine Kennedy, New York State's special deputy attorney general for Environmental Protection, spoke at Pace Law School and outlined the state's plans to address global warming.

Also in April, New York City was the site of the Lubin School's annual Forum on Contemporary Accounting Issues, which for the second year addressed one of the most fundamental issues for all multinational businesses; how to harmonize the U.S.'s heavily rule-based accounting standards with the more principle-based standards of Europe and

## It Takes a Village, or a Pace Learning Community

Subjects like history, literature, and film were made for each other. Everyone loves classes in which you can watch a movie, compare it to the book, and tease out the historical fact from the fiction. But what about business and computing? Ethics and the Internet. At Pace University, interdisciplinary study has evolved into learning communities in which students take two different courses combined into one, six-credit class, taught by a pair of professors. According to Computer Science Professor Catherine Dwyer, PhD, the goal is to "build stronger bonds" between the students and "get them to think about some of the similarities between different fields of study."

It's working, with some surprising results.

Philosophy Professor Michal W. Klincwicz teaches Ethics and the Internet with Dwyer, and he happens to have an undergraduate degree in computer science. "My background is very helpful," acknowledges Klincwicz. But on the flip side, he says "philosophy gives the analytical skills to make the ethical problems associated with technology tractable philosophy—it's not just a series of case studies and answers."

Their students study cases ripped from the headlines, involving privacy, piracy, software failure, automation, and social networking, but they also evaluate the ethics of each situation through Kant's moral philosophy, social contract theory, utilitarianism, and other perspectives. "It's an advanced cognitive skill to use a theory to analyze behavior," explains Dwyer. "That's the kind of stuff people do in law school and graduate school."

Students also learn the basics of computing such as Excel, HTML, and Java. Professor Kathryn Winsted, PhD teaches Computing and Business in the Digital Age, a class which combines the same introductory computer science course that Dwyer and Klincwicz teach, but with Business 101 instead of ethics. "As business majors, a lot of my students just want to learn business," admits Winsted. But in her learning community, students use technology to solve business problems. "For them to understand how [technology] is relevant to what they are doing in business, is great," she says.

Winsted's class puts students through a series of business simulations, in which teams of students make decisions on pricing, production, advertising, labor relations, and more. Their success is related to the decisions that their competitors make, and the results of team versus team are calculated by complex formulas in Excel. The students build the spreadsheets themselves. "They learn by doing," Winsted explains. "One hundred percent of the class agreed it was a good way to learn Excel, and they preferred the simulation approach to business, over a traditional class with lectures," she says.

Interdisciplinary education can be challenging and complex, but the learning community atmosphere makes it fun too. "It's really unique, there's an energy in the students," says Klincwicz. "Cathy and I have a rapport and interact with the students in a more casual way," he says. "We're more like catalysts to our students' learning, and the class is a journey the end of which we all end up learning something."

—Catherine Memory