



The Project Spera Quarterly Newsletter

Global Youth Media & Art Exhibition

April 6th-May 31st at the Crissy Field Center.
See news and events page 3 for details.

Support Project Spera by eating at Pasta Pomodoro North Beach!

Mention Project Spera when you order and Pasta Pomodoro North Beach before July 1 and a portion of your bill (\$1 for each entrée ordered) will be donated to Project Spera.

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what we've been up to

The 2006 World Affairs Challenge was a tremendous success, with nearly 400 middle and high school youth from around the Bay Area participating in the program. After three months of preparation, 48 teams from 25 Bay Area Schools traveled to San Francisco State University on March 18 to test their knowledge of international issues and share analyses and conclusions related to this year's theme, "Conflict in the Contemporary World". The Challenge garnered rave reviews from participants, coaches and spectators alike and received favorable coverage from KGO Channel 7 news and KCBS radio. A total of nearly 800 people were present at the event.

The Challenge received integral support from San Francisco State University administration and staff as well as from 175 community volunteers who served as coaches, judges, event proctors and performed numerous logistical tasks. Since its inception in 2003, the World Affairs Challenge has quadrupled in size at all levels of participation from youth, volunteers and spectators. The following statement from one of this year's coaches encapsulates the profound impact this program can have on youth:

"I did want to share with you the highlight of the event for me. After the collaborative question, three students were talking to each other and one mentioned that, "I didn't think I was a leader, but now I realize I am." Another responded: "I know just what you mean; I didn't think I

was smart, but I am!" And the final girl said: "yeah, doesn't it make you excited for college?" I don't know about you, but that kind of experience where they OWN it and recognize their own accomplishments make this teaching thing for me all worthwhile! Hope it made you smile. Well done."

Each team in World Affairs Challenge program is required to prepare and perform a formal presentation related to the annual theme. The formal presentation must incorporate the perspectives of at least two countries and offer a viable solution to the dilemma being examined. This year, participating teams reached new levels of creativity, complexity and rigor in their presentations on conflict around the world.

The Ross Middle School presentation examined issues of conflict between the indigenous peoples of Ecuador, the Ecuadorian government and oil companies through their debate of the following resolution: All exploration and drilling for oil on lands belonging to the Achuar, Shuar and Kichwa people should cease. Visitacion Valley Middle School combined personal and global perspectives in their skit, depicting how one family explores the way different cultures come into conflict. Across

generations, the family sees how similar struggles for power and autonomy fuel conflict in Tibet, Sudan and Bosnia. At the high school level, Mission High incorporated real-life web log postings from people reacting to the 2005 Paris riots into a dramatic presentation. Mercy High School made creative use of multiple forms of media in their presentation on conflict in Yugoslavia, Palestine and Sudan, combining dramatic presentation, video, powerpoint and photography. These are just a few examples of the ways youth in the 2006 Challenge chose to examine international issues that are of importance to them.

Selected works from the [Global Youth Media and Arts Festival 2005](#) will be on view at the Crissy Field Center from April 6th-May 31st. On Thursday May 25th, Project Spera will be hosting a closing ceremony at the Center from 5-7pm to celebrate the exhibition and announce news about the [2006 Media and Arts Program](#) including the theme: *Immigration and Identity* and a new venue for our 2006 Festival: Zeum a youth museum of art and technology. Come check out the exhibition and event at The Crissy Field Center: 603 Mason at Halleck, Presidio.

Our [Teachers and Schools Program](#) is wrapping up another academic year, and approximately 35 teachers have worked with us on a one-on-one basis to develop new lessons for their classroom, while almost 70 teachers have been part of our Spera Educators Network this year. We are beginning the process of gathering feedback and evaluating this year's programs in order to make enhancements for next year.

Project Spera is expanding! We are excited to welcome three new members to the [Project Spera staff](#)! Kelly Korenak, a previous intern, is joining us part-time to work on the Teacher and Schools Program. Victoria Restler, who consulted for the 2005 Media & Arts Program is now a full-time Program Associate. Sarah Haldan, a previous intern, is now our full-time Development Associate. Read more about our staff at <http://projectspera.org/about/staff.html>

The [O'Reilly's Beer and Oyster Festival](#) was a resounding success! Thank you to all who donated their time to serving beer and raising funds for Project Spera. We're not sure on the totals yet, but it is somewhere in the range of \$4-5000! The event this year was held on April 1, 2006 at the Great Lawn in the Marina and welcomed hundreds of San Franciscans to enjoy beer, oysters and some overdue sunshine.

who supports us

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GENEROUS DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS.

We are very grateful for the support we have recently received for our programs.

We are pleased to announce recent contributions from the following local businesses and corporations:

Albertsons
Microsoft Giving Campaign.

Thank you to the following generous individuals have also contributed since our last newsletter:

Charles & Sandra Mendler
Dan & Gina Devito
Geoff Kertesz
Hanmin Lee
Jill Gardner
Joel Curzon & Rama Padmanabhan
Julie Buchan
Patricia McGinnis
Santeri & Mariah Voutilainen
Tara and Troy Witt
Wentworth Foster

Thank you to the 60 volunteers who helped at the 7th annual O'Reilly's Beer and Oyster Festival and to the 200 volunteers who supported the 2006 World Affairs Challenge!

We thank our staff, interns and volunteers who contributed to this newsletter and who work so hard for the success of our programs: Bryn Murray, Christina Hoheisel, Jake Meyer, Jones Chan, Kassi Sande, Kelly Korenak, Jeff Alvarez and Victoria Restler.

Being a donor of Project Spera means you are part of a community that believes everyone should have the opportunity to learn about world affairs in order to become responsible leaders and citizens.

we need your support

You, Project Spera's supporters, play a vital role in helping us expand our programs. ***Please chat us up with friends and acquaintances, you never know who will want to get involved!***

3,500 students in classrooms throughout San Francisco are learning about current events and international affairs while tackling math, science and literature thanks to Project Spera's *Teacher's and Schools Program*. **Just \$25 brings this education to one student for the year and we need your help to finish this academic year strongly.**

If you haven't renewed your support for 2006, please consider making a gift today and support classroom learning!
Contribute to Project Spera online at www.projectspera.org.

news and events

Global Youth Media & Art Exhibition

When: April 6th-May 31st

Where: Crissy Field Center, 603 Mason at Halleck, Presidio

What: Selected works from the 2005 Global Youth Media and Arts Festival will be on display.

Please contact Victoria Restler with any questions at restler@projectspera.org.

Global Youth Media & Art Closing Ceremony

When: Thursday, May 25th from 5-7pm

Where: Crissy Field Center, 603 Mason at Halleck, Presidio

What: A celebration of the exhibition and announcements about the theme and venue of the 2006 Media & Arts Program.

Please contact Victoria Restler with any questions at restler@projectspera.org.

Project Spera Teacher Workshop: "Immigration and California History"

When: Thursday, April 27th from 5-7:30pm

Where: Bay Area Global Education Project, World Affairs Building, 312 Sutter Street, Room 312

Who: Teachers in all disciplines throughout the Bay Area are welcome to attend.

Please register by emailing korenak@projectspera.org or call 415-292-7421.

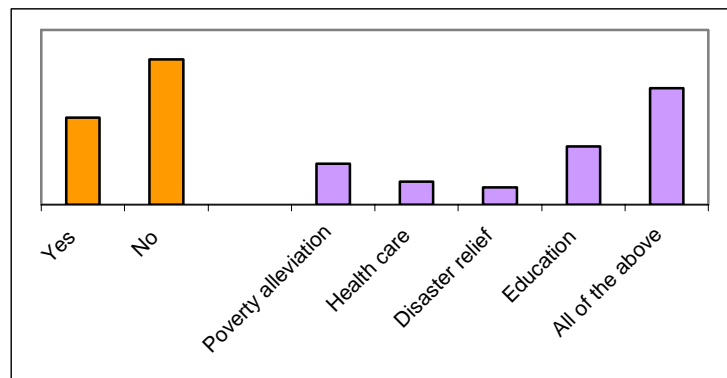
tell us what you think

Which section of our newsletter, *Spera Speaks*, do you most look forward to?

- what we've been up to
- we need your support
- news and events
- tell us what you think
- who supports us
- community profiles
- test your global awareness

Please visit www.projectspera.org to submit your response.

This is how you voted on the last poll, which asked (1) Do you believe the U.S. gives enough foreign aid per capita to overseas development projects? and (2) What should the priorities for disbursing foreign aid be?



test your global awareness! Take the quiz online at www.projectspera.org and see the correct answers.

1. Years of drought have pushed the _____ Desert south, destroying farmland in many countries, including Nigeria, Niger and Mali. a. Sahara b. Savanna c. Nigerian d. Death Valley
2. The U.S. government continues to fund a multibillion-dollar anti-drug campaign to combat the "drug wars" in this South American country: a. Chile b. Colombia c. Peru d. Afghanistan
3. Known as the world's most heavily fortified border, the Demilitarized Zone, or DMZ, spans the border between which two countries? a. North & South Korea b. Russia & Ukraine c. Zambia & Zimbabwe d. United States & Mexico
4. What is the capital city of Canada, the country that is the United States' largest trading partner? a. Ottawa b. Vancouver c. Nova Scotia d. Seattle
5. Condoleezza Rice holds what position in the United States' government, dealing mostly with foreign affairs? a. Global Affairs Diplomat b. Secretary of State c. Defense Minister d. Energy Secretary

answers from the last quiz...

1. Q. The former European country of Yugoslavia is now composed of Slovenia, Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, and:
c. Bosnia Correct: 76% Incorrect: 24%
2. Q. In the capital city of _____, thousands of Iraqis turned out for the first multiparty election in almost 50 years.
c. Baghdad Correct: 90% Incorrect: 10%
3. Q. Russia and China joined the European Union and the United States in demanding that _____ suspend its nuclear activity.
a. Iran Correct: 81% Incorrect: 19%
4. Q. The world's largest religion is Christianity with 2.1 billion followers. A close second is _____ with 1.3 billion followers.
a. Islam Correct: 90% Incorrect: 10%
5. Q. The rebel Tamil Tigers continue their raids across the island nation of _____.
a. Sri Lanka Correct: 76% Incorrect: 24%

community profiles

Read about some of the teachers, students, volunteers and donors who are involved in Project Spera's global education programs. We are grateful for their commitment to education and youth development.

Embers of Hope by Kassi Sande

Kassi Sande was introduced to Project Spera through Jeff Alvarez, a loyal Spera volunteer and donor. Corresponding from Peru, she is enthusiastic about our mission and welcomes questions and comments at kassidene@gmail.com.

Growing up in a place where our poor had access to more resources than the rich of developing nations, I saw an obligation to become aware of the poverty faced by most of the world. I organized an opportunity to live in a small town in the Peruvian highlands and volunteer for FINCA Peru, a non-profit lending organization that works to develop the local economy. After witnessing the awesome difficulties faced by the artisans, attempting to sell handicrafts in a saturated local market with little tourism and locals who couldn't afford artistic luxuries, I developed a plan to unite them into an export association and find enough markets to sustain the lives of them and their families. The people here have deeply touched my life, teaching me about generosity in the midst of poverty and inspiring me to make everyday count.

My first meeting with Timotea Quispe de Bautista is a memory crisp and clear as an Ayacuchan morning. I was reviewing local artisans work, interviewing them for enrollment in the FINCA program. Most staggered in late with cloth backpacks erupting with artwork. Timotea promptly arrived and placed two small carvings, an elephant and dolphin, on the table. I watched her eyes fill with pride as I measured and photographed them. That sparkling pride waned when I asked her to fill out an information sheet about her pieces. That sparkle faded as I asked her questions in a language she pretended to understand. Timotea, like most Ayacuchans, suffered from illiteracy and could only speak in the ancient language of the Incas, Quechuan. Timotea shared her story with me and I understood why she showed up at that meeting, radiating a smile and a desire for progress.

In the late Seventies, Timotea was a newlywed teenage peasant, who, working hard and saving, had gathered the resources for a small farm in the village of Vicheros, Peru. It was a time of political flux and the peasants became subject to the hostilities of an extremist group called The Shining Path. Young men and boys were kidnapped and forced to join Shining Path militia. Resistance from parents was met with torture, political opposition was met with the murder; entire families disappeared. Timotea and her family survived by working their farm during the day and seeking refuge in a nearby cave at night. This continued for years until one day the militia caught up with them, a few booby-traps impeded the militia and allowed some of her family to escape. To date, she still doesn't know exactly how many of her family, neighbors and friends in Vicheros were murdered.

Timotea and her family, now of 8, fled to Ayacucho, where they squatted on a small piece of land with other refugees. With no opportunities for work and unable to raise another farm, Timotea and her husband Juan taught themselves how to carve stone harvested from nearby mountains. As their experience at carving grew, so did their ability to sustain their family. They set up a booth in a market and started to sell enough to guarantee that no one would go to bed hungry, even added meat to their diet three times per week. Timotea's entire family works diligently in their small mud hut, which triples as their workshop, bedroom and kitchen. They know that life's riches do not consist of television or automobiles. They know that what their togetherness in past hardship and close quarters affords them is more powerful than any day gone hungry.

The pride returns to Timotea's eyes when I congratulate her on such an amazing accomplishment. The same kids whose first memories are of sleeping in caves and narrowly escaping death, the same kids who wore a single set of clothing for a large part of their childhood, are pursuing a higher education. They will graduate from poverty and Timotea's grandchildren may grow up in Peru's small middle class. Timotea's eyes filled with such pride because this is all she ever really wanted out of life. She truly carved a future for her family out of the fateful black charcoals and smoking embers of her past, one stone at a time.

This is how Timotea arrived in my office; I now understand her desire for progress and the colossal barriers preventing her from getting there. I believe some walls are never meant to be torn down. Timotea and her six children should never abandon their native tongue, nor should they ever sacrifice their Peruvian traditions to make way for Westernized progress. They should never be ashamed of the mud house in which they live, nor the wood stove on which they boil their potatoes. But, perhaps, I could help them build a gate out of the suffocating confines of those walls, preserving their heritage yet cultivating personal, emotional, and economic progress in their lives.

To learn more, check out: FINCA -- <http://www.villagebanking.org>, Accion International -- www.accion.org, CHF International -- www.chfhq.org, Bay Area organizations: Women's Initiative for Self-Employment -- www.womensinitiative.org, StartUp (East Palo Alto Micro Business Initiative) -- www.startupepa.org, C.E.O. Women (Creating Economic Opportunities for Women) -- www.ceowomen.org

Thank you for supporting Project Spera and global education!