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For Openers

Editorial Board

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"Globalization" is a term that has been used so often that it has lost much of its meaning. Hence the seminar's struggle to decide upon a title for this issue which would convey the meaning we intended. After much thought and discussion, we settled on "Toward a Global Vision."

This issue and the articles in it take much of their inspiration from the words of the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., particularly his address at the Santa Clara University conference on Justice (October, 2000, published in *Conversations* #19, spring, 2001) and his address on "The Jesuit University in the Spirit of the Ignatian Charism" (Rome, May 27, 2001). As Fr. Kolvenbach notes in the latter speech, "The universities have an indispensable role in the critical analysis of globalization, with all its positive and negative connotations: to orient the thought and the action of society."

One way that Jesuit higher education can contribute to this "critical analysis" is to emphasize the international potential of our educational mission. Fr. Kolvenbach observes that "globalization, although it is closely tied to economic processes, includes dimensions which offer unique possibilities for the construction of a more fraternal and unified world." By introducing students to other national perspectives, programs in international education can help build a more fraternal and unified world.

There are different models for the kinds of international education that colleges and universities make available to their students, and which the *U.S. News and World Report* survey of colleges and universities regularly tabulate. But these different models also make different assumptions about what such international educational experiences comprise.

The seminar is aware that the articles making up this issue also assume or reflect many different models of international education. The seminar hopes that the informative and thought-provoking articles in this issue may spark lively conversations on our campuses about international education. In that way, too, we may contribute to what Pope John Paul II calls the "globalization of solidarity."

For a list of all international programs at the twenty-eighth Jesuit colleges and universities, see the Resource Book for International Education (May 2002) at the AJCU website [www.ajcu.net/areas/pubs/resource/document.asp].

See the same site for a listing of Study Abroad programs open to students from Jesuit colleges and universities.

For those many faculty, administrators and staff who have asked whether *Conversations* is available on-line: it is now available through the AJCU web site or (on many Jesuit college and university campuses) through your online catalogue. With the help of Marquette University's Religious Commitment Fund, administrators and staff of Marquette's Memorial Library have developed a web site where all issues will be available, along with author, subject, and title indices.

For those new to *Conversations*, the National Seminar on Jesuit Higher Education regularly solicits suggestions for possible future themes as well as responses to past issues and/or essays. See the inside back cover of each issue for a list of themes currently under discussion.

For news of events on particular Jesuit campuses, see the AJCU (Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities) website: www.ajcu.net.