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## From the Editor: Moving Out - A Worldwide Campus

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## From the Editor

# Moving Out – a Worldwide Campus

When the pioneering Jesuits left Rome for Messina, Sicily, to found a new college there in 1548, the first Jesuit venture into education, they were entering a foreign land. Messina was in the Kingdom of Sicily, though its king was Charles II of Spain. A united Italy was centuries away. Jesuit education has been international since the very beginning.

Schools multiplied quickly after the first foundation at Messina. In the Papal States and in northern Italy, in German areas and in Bohemia, in France and Spain and Portugal schools sprung up in response to requests from civic leaders who recognized the need and the value of this mission of the young Society of Jesus. In 1543 Jesuits began serving even at a college in Goa, India, and by 1549 were running it. A book of 1640 that celebrated the centenary of the Jesuit order notes that by then there were hundreds of Jesuit colleges in Europe but also thirteen in Mexico, eleven in Peru, and nine in Goa.

Jesuit education was clearly international, but the schools were not. They were rooted in a place and brought their broad vision and curriculum to a very specific culture and context. Globalization was centuries away.

But globalization is with us now. It dominates media – social or otherwise. It dominates business, with U.S. companies selling products made in China to markets in Europe. And it is a big part of education.

Along with other U.S. higher education schools, those in the Jesuit network keep expanding their mission into foreign places with foreign partners. And students and programs from abroad have become integral parts of campuses in the United States. Study abroad programs – like St. Louis U.’s Madrid program and Loyola Chicago’s in Rome – have flourished for decades. But new study programs exist in Asia, South America, and Africa; and students from those continents flock here to study too. Besides, short immersion programs give students an opportunity for a richer international experience of education.

The exchange goes in both directions: the U.S. students go elsewhere to enrich their education; students from elsewhere come to the U.S. and make life richer on campuses here. Articles in this issue of *Conversations* take a good look at these rich exchanges. The reflections from students are particularly powerful.

My experience here at America Media – my other job – endorses this development. Our younger staff have spent college time in Oxford, Panama, and Colombia. Zac, our most recent full-time editorial staff member, graduated from Loyola Chicago last June; his college years included a semester in Rome and another in Beijing. These rich background experiences add a lot to our perspective.

Another development here at America is investment in social media, which breaks down other borders. Social media can be a foreign land to me, but they bring our mission here to a much

wider and, if I may say so, a younger population. With young staff and with college-age interns like Nick, Abbey, Rob, Matt, Nicole, and Christina, America Media is very much part of that world.

America connects with the Jesuit educational mission in another way. For several years we have provided an opportunity for all students of high school or college to contribute to our “Generation Faith” column. And we recently announced the Joseph A. O’Hare, S.J., Post Graduate Writing Fellowship for graduates of AJCU and Canadian Jesuit universities and colleges. Named for former editor Joseph O’Hare, S.J., this program will award three fellows the chance to spend a full year working at the offices of America Media and generating content for multiple platforms – print, web, digital, social media, and events. They will receive housing at Fordham’s Lincoln Center campus, health care, and a monthly stipend for living expenses for the 12 months of the program. It’s quite an opportunity for three graduates of our Jesuit schools. (Check it out on [oharefellows.org](http://oharefellows.org); the deadline for applying is the end of January.)

Besides this engagement with students, many articles that *America* publishes come from faculty at Jesuit schools. And the first recipient of our new annual award, the \$25,000 George W. Hunt, S.J., Prize for a writer in journalism, arts, and letters, was Philip J. Metres III, professor of English at John Carroll.

An old image of colleges is that of an enclosed environment where ivied walls sheltered and protected learning from worldly concerns. Gown did not want to meet town, and town was content to leave it that way. But the reality today is far from those ivied walls and indeed from their “ivied covered professors,” as Tom Lehrer used to sing. Reality today is involvement, not just with the town but with the world.

We explore that reality in this issue of *Conversations*. Our cover image and Mark Bosco’s opening article that speaks to it articulate the idea that the Jesuit mission was from the beginning open ended, outward moving, global. Mission work is local, particular, involved with individuals one by one. But the energy moves outward, seeking new horizons, accepting new challenges, relishing new opportunities. The work, the mission of our schools is very much part of that spirit. The articles in this *Conversations* tell a strong part of that story. ■

Edward W. Schmidt, S.J., editor

**And a hearty welcome** to four new members of the *Conversations* on Jesuit Higher Education Seminar! Joining us are **Heidi Barker** from Regis University, **Molly Pepper** from Gonzaga University, **Jennifer Rinella** from Rockhurst University, and **Julie Rubio** from St. Louis University. We look forward to sharing your insights and wisdom for the next three years of *Conversations*! Thanks for joining our group!