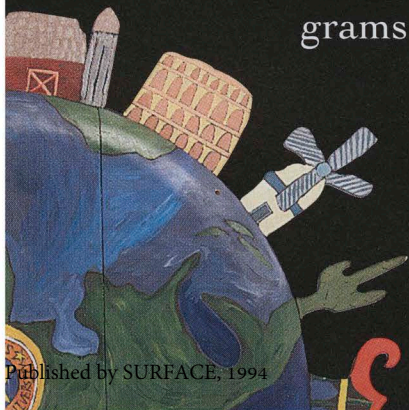


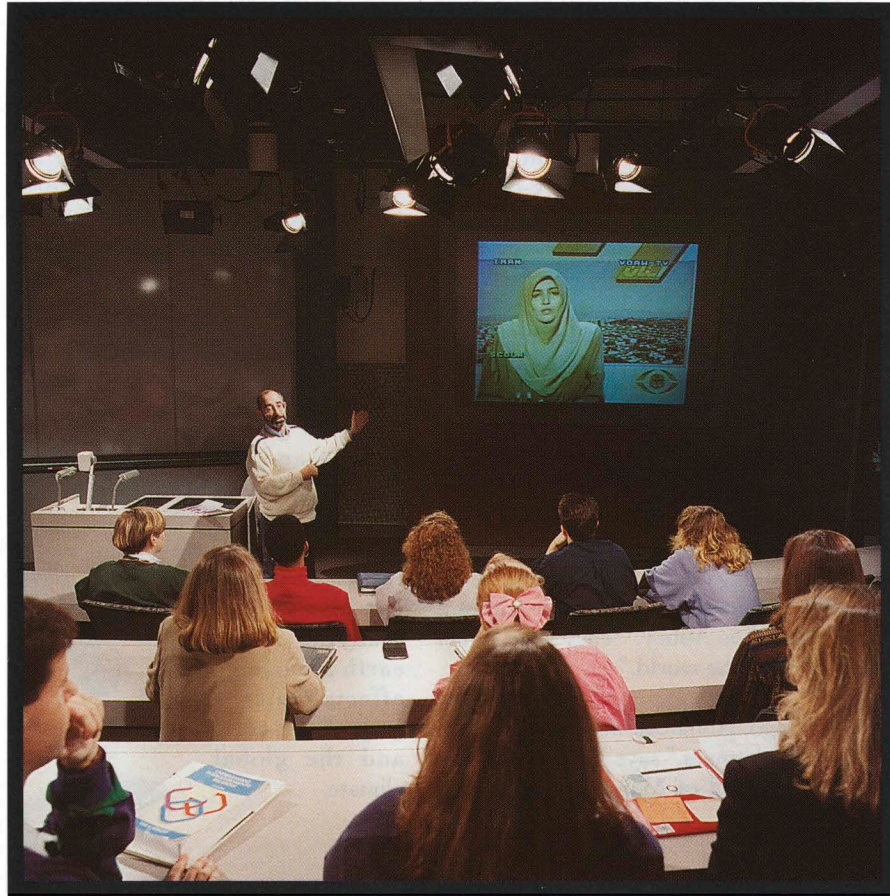
Global VISION

By Andrea C. Marsh

Syracuse University's ever-expanding scope brings international exploration and involvement to class—and beyond.

Stuart Thorson came up with the idea while watching the 1989 Tiananmen Square uprising. He and a group of Syracuse University graduate students were in Geneva, Switzerland, when they witnessed televised reports of the event in Italian, French, and German. More impressively, they saw the drama portrayed through the cultural lenses of several countries. Such an array of differing images and views is commonplace for many Europeans, who routinely see news programs from neighboring nations. "Here, we tend





The Exploratorium

to see things through a pretty common New York-centric lens,” says Thorson, a professor of international relations in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. “I came back with the notion that it would be nice to put together something that had that same kind of capability for students.”

That vision became reality earlier this year with the unveiling of the International Exploratorium on the ground floor of SU’s newest building, Melvin A. Eggers Hall. The International Exploratorium is a window to the world, a multimedia facility equipped to provide access to foreign-language television and radio broadcasts, international press reports, and a variety of maps and quantitative data.

Much to Thorson’s delight, students can now view live television newscasts from Portugal, Jordan, Greece, and 27 other nations. International video conferences are being planned and the 70-seat classroom may soon offer, among other advantages, three-dimensional imaging so Doug Armstrong, an associate professor of anthropology, can take students on a visual walk-through of archaeological digs in Jamaica.

The International Exploratorium is a prime example of how SU continues to expand its educational scope beyond traditional boundaries—and beyond the United States. In many cases, advancing technology is helping to create new and far-reaching opportunities for faculty and students. These range from the development of an educational computer system in the Philippines to the creation of joint educational ventures in Eastern Europe and Russia.

Every college at SU, from education to engineering and computer science, is involved in some international endeavor, either on campus, off campus, or both. Here’s a sampling:

Newhouse—A large component of Newhouse’s photography program involves spending a semester of study in

London. Students use the city as a backdrop for assignments; visit studios, picture agencies, and London newspapers; and take trips to Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for fresh and eye-opening experiences, new sights, new smells, and new sounds that are very stimulating to the photography student," says Tony Golden, chairman of the photography department.

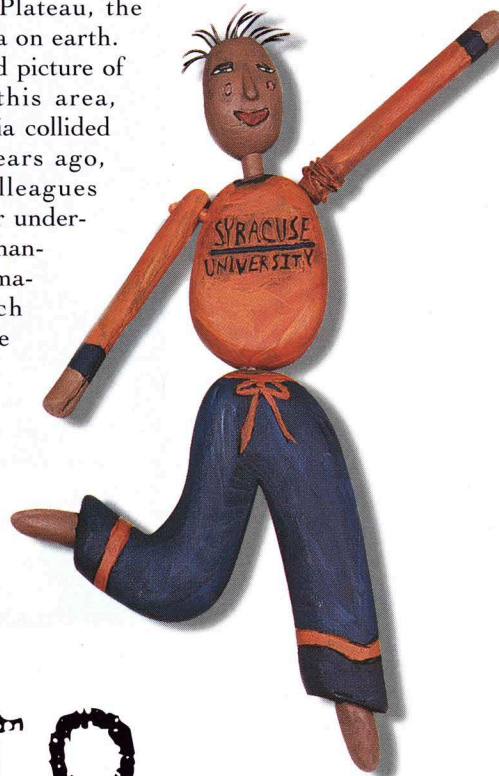
- **Architecture**—"Architecture is not a parochial practice," says Bruce Abbey, dean of the School of Architecture. "It's worldwide, and one has to go see the models of excellence."

Nearly 80 percent of fourth-year students in the School of Architecture spend a summer, semester, or year in Florence, Italy, with SU's Division of International Programs Abroad. Students not only take required design courses, but visit and study the country's many architectural gems. "This is an integral part of our curriculum, and I can't overstate its necessity for our students, particularly those from within a 200-mile radius of Syracuse," says Abbey. "They need to get out and see the sophistication of the world."

- **Management**—"Not long ago, globalization was a concern for corporate strategists and planners," says Peter Koveos, a professor of finance in the School of Management. "Now,

with large, digitally created topographic maps of the Tibetan Plateau. The geology professor runs an international venture called INDEPTH, or the International Deep Profiling of Tibet and the Himalayas. He and scientists from universities worldwide are trying to create an accurate image and understanding of the crust beneath the Tibetan Plateau, the largest elevated area on earth.

With an improved picture of the formation of this area, where Asia and India collided some 50 million years ago, Nelson and his colleagues hope to gain a better understanding of the mechanics of mountain formations. This research can also help those studying how the earth's movement affects the chemistry of the ocean and the global climate.



SU continues to

even entry-level managers need a global mind-set. They need to know the players, the regulatory trends, the risks and returns, and much more."

To meet these needs, the school has a multitude of resources available in the four-year-old Olivia and Walter Kiebach Center for International Business Studies, which is located in the Crouse-Hinds School of Management Building and directed by Koveos. Using international databases such as Worldscope Disclosure and World Bank Tables, students and faculty can examine financial information from 8,000 companies in 40 countries and review data on 139 economies.

Students can also take international finance courses through a partnership between the School of Management and East China University of Technology in Shanghai. Students travel to China during the summer to participate in the program, which also includes field trips and an in-depth look at China's emerging markets.

- **Arts and Sciences**—Doug Nelson's lab in the basement of the Heroy Geology Laboratory is wallpapered

- **Education and Information Studies**—Can you imagine a university that offers courses to 400,000 students on 13,642 islands across five time zones, all without a campus? One exists.

Universitas Terbuka provides education for students via mail, audio cassettes, and television transmissions throughout Indonesia. Professors from SU's schools of education and information studies have been involved with the institution since its inception 10 years ago, helping the Indonesian Ministry of Culture and Education develop both the curricula and technology to make higher education available to many people who could not otherwise attend college for financial or logistical reasons.

"This university is playing a very important role in developing Indonesia and helping improve the literacy and educational skills of its people," says Mike Nilan, an associate professor of information studies.

"Right now we're helping solve some of the problems the university has had with an increased enrollment of students who need feedback when they are working alone at a distance," says Don Ely, a professor of instructional design,

development, and evaluation in the School of Education. "We're trying to create alternative ways to make the learning more motivational, to retain students, to provide quicker feedback, and to help them be interactive in the process."

By virtue of the very nature of many of its programs and departments—international relations, political science, history, geography, etc.—the Maxwell School has the University's broadest range of internationally related functions, courses, and institutes.

Last spring, Matt Bonham, director of SU's international relations program, taught a course in which students took part in computer conferences with student groups from institutions across the United States and in countries such as Finland, France, and Spain.

Instead of simply having his students read and discuss certain subject matter, Bonham involved them in some international role-playing. Teams of students represented particular countries—at SU it was Brazil, India, and Russia—and participated in simulated conferences. They negotiated issues such as the environment and arms control.

"This type of experience really gives students a feel for what it's like to be involved in international negotiation,"

matic part, was really to give focus to the external side. We wanted to get those of us who were working in the international area involved in policy-related issues that made a difference."

One example involves Maxwell's Joint Eastern Europe Center for Democratic Education and Governance. Its director, Joe Julian, trains teachers in Russia to democratize the social studies curriculum in the country's primary and secondary schools. "We've got people who know a lot about democratic theory to talk about how it relates to the practice of teaching a class in a country that's never really had any experience in it," says Thorson.

Maxwell faculty are also involved in projects in Southeast Asia. In 1993, SU became the first American institution to sign a formal agreement with the People's Republic of China. Maxwell faculty are working with the faculty at China's National School of Administration (CNSA), which trains ranking civil service employees in the central government. SU is teaching CNSA's faculty how to teach public administration and train government managers through executive education programs in Beijing. SU faculty are also beginning to collaborate with the Chinese faculty in new research efforts to improve the structure of the Chinese government.

After learning of SU's initiatives in China, Tran Chien

expand its own World.

says Bonham. "They were dealing with issues that are really being discussed at the international systems level." Such projects, says Thorson, provide "students an idea of how difficult it is to express ideas clearly across cultures. It allows them to see the complexity of it."

Thorson is involved in a larger project, the Global Affairs Institute, established last year to bring together scholars from the various social science disciplines with similar regional and topical interests. For years, faculty members in the Maxwell School have been conducting international research studies, but there had traditionally been little collaboration and coordination of efforts. An African political scientist, for instance, might have had very little contact with an African sociologist. No more. The institute focuses on combined research in areas such as conflict resolution, international political economy, comparative government studies, and comparative media studies.

"Global Affairs was set up in part to provide a central entry point to resolve some logistical issues," says Thorson, its director. "But the other part, the more important program-

Thang, a Vietnamese student in Maxwell's executive education program, proposed that SU create a similar relationship with the National Institute of Public Administration of Vietnam in Hanoi. Such an agreement was formalized last summer. "We don't have a basic training in public administration," says Thang. "We're starting from the beginning. What is the role of government? How do you build a legal system? The professors at Maxwell are the professionals. They can help us."

"Asia is the most rapidly developing region on earth," says Marwyn Samuels, a geography professor involved in both the China and Vietnam initiatives. "Governments and public policies are undergoing rapid change. For us to keep up and make sense of it all is a big challenge for our training programs in China and Vietnam.

"We won't try to provide answers to all the problems in China or Vietnam. It's not our business to go out and solve problems of political and administrative reform, but we can address the options and ways to approach the issue of reform."

In the process of helping educate another portion of the world, SU continues to expand its own world. ■