

Blum Center Hosts Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright

Discussion Focuses on Foreign Policy

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright addressed a packed audience on January 30th, sharing her perspective on the issues facing the nation and world today.

Sponsored by the Blum Center for Developing Economies, founder Richard Blum began the evening by introducing Albright as one of his three favorite women in politics today and described how he enjoyed working with her in The National Democratic Institute.

In a discussion moderated by former Governor of Michigan Jennifer Granholm, Albright focused on two emerging megatrends: the rise of globalization and interdependence, and the evolution of technology and its role in politics.

Albright discussed the importance of nations' involvement with others in the global community, stating that growing interconnectivity binds countries' political and economic fates. In the U.S., she

said, foreign aid advocates struggle to win Congressional support, but it is both possible and prudent for Americans to support economic development domestically and abroad.

When addressing the evolution of technology, Albright emphasized its power in fostering both political engagement and development. She noted, however, that channeling public opinion through social media can also lead to the disaggregation of social movements.

"Tahrir Square came together with social media, but how do you get that to government?" she asked.

In addition to the megatrends, Albright stressed the need for more representation in government, including that of women.

"I do believe the world would be better if there were more women in leading positions," she said. When Albright was appointed the 64th Secretary of State by President Clinton in 1997,



Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright drew hundreds of UC Berkeley students, faculty, and community members for a discussion of megatrends in foreign policy. Former Michigan governor Jennifer Granholm moderated the program.

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Albright became the highest ranking woman in the history of US government.

Albright later took questions from the audience, ranging from her views on the Syrian conflict to her thoughts on basketball diplomacy's usefulness in North Korea.

"I appreciated her honesty about the balancing act diplomats must engage in," said Veena Subramanian, a student in the Global Poverty & Practice Minor who attended the event. "They have to manage a genuine respect for human lives against the political games of DC."

To close the evening, Blum presented Albright with a Campaign for Berkeley bear pin, promising her an even more honorable award during her next visit with the assistance of Chancellor Dirks.

When asked what she would like to be remembered for, Albright said she would like it to be for something other than just being the first female Secretary of State. Quoting her granddaughter, she said, "What's the big deal? Only girls are Secretary of State."

Instead, she said she would like to be remembered for her initiative to take U.S. action in Kosovo in 1999, making her a popular figure in the area.

"There's a whole generation of little girls in Kosovo with the name Madeleine," she said.

By: Andrea Guzman
Political Science Major, 3rd Year

Development Engineering Seminars Explore Technology-Based Solutions to Poverty

UC Berkeley's Development Impact Lab (DIL) is forging a new, interdisciplinary field of academic and applied research – Development Engineering (DevEng) – housed at the Blum Center.

Development Engineering seeks to train a new cadre of experts to tightly integrate social and economic insights in the development of technology and services to address the problems of poverty. DevEng's inaugural "Research in Action" speaker series explores current scientific and technological efforts to address global development issues, bringing experts together in an interdisciplinary space.

"Too often, a great idea is tested and approved before its effectiveness on a larger scale can be evaluated," explains Alice Agogino, UC Berkeley Professor of Mechanical Engineering. "It takes many aspects and disciplines that involve technology, impact analysis and economics. We want to engage the academic community to test and refine our approaches to development."

The goal of our Designated Emphasis in Development Engineering is to facilitate and formalize a community to use advanced science, economics and technology to solve complex global issues.

The seminar series features weekly talks from academics and professionals who contribute to the intellectual sphere that constitutes DevEng. Speakers come from a wide variety of disciplines, including computer science, economics, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, bioengineering, civil and environmental engineering, information management, public health, and business. All of the expertise is required to solve the big challenges facing society.

DIL partner Gaetano Borriello, Professor of Computer Science & Engineering at University of Washington and creator of Open Data Kit (ODK), addressed a packed audience on the functions and processes of his technology at the inaugural seminar. ODK is an open-source toolkit that has simplified the ability for users to build forms, analyze, transfer and share data on various platforms. ODK is being used by thousands of people in a wide variety of ways. In Tanzania, ODK works with the Jane Goodall Institute to map unsafe areas for chimpanzees using data submitted over mobile phones; in the

Congo, a visual version of the software enables illiterate Pygmies to track poachers' locations; and in dozens of other countries, the tool is used to conduct public health and socioeconomic surveys.

The "Research in Action" events create a forum where faculty and practitioners with extensive applied expertise can engage with intellectually curious students who bring their own innovative ideas.

"We're all coming together to this with different perspectives, different backgrounds, different biases," said UC Berkeley bioengineering professor Dan Fletcher during a "Research in Action" seminar on CellScope, a smartphone-enabled microscope technology used for remote diagnosis in developing countries. CellScope, a student innovation, uses consumer technology to extend access to health care; it is being used to detect corneal diseases in Thailand, tuberculosis in Vietnam, oral cancer in India, and to image worms in Cameroon. The CellScope case study particularly resonated with the audience. According to Dr. Fletcher, its materialization was heavily dependent on the collaboration of technologies, ideas, and disciplines.

The speaker series is helping build momentum toward the launch of a formal designated emphasis (DE) graduate program, which would be available to UC Berkeley doctoral students who have an interest in DevEng. The program is co-directed by UC Berkeley faculty Alice Agogino, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, and Clair Brown, Professor of Economics. The intention for this DE rests on the belief that the most powerful advances in development can be propelled through interdisciplinary collaboration and analysis of development solutions.

"Specifically," explained Brown, "the goal of a Designated Emphasis in Development Engineering is to facilitate and formalize an intellectual community to use advanced science, economics and technology for potential solutions to complex global issues."

The DE will require one main course, one research seminar, and a series of electives relevant to students' research interests. It will focus on human-centered design along with participant feedback, impact evaluation, econometrics, automated data collection, and sustainability of new technologies. The program will be offered to doctoral students from the natural sciences, engineering, mathematics, computer science, information management, quantitative social sciences, and business programs.

*By: Abby Madan
Political Economy Major, 2nd Year*

For more information, visit dil.berkeley.edu/students/designated-emphasis and subscribe to the DevEng listserv.

Where Are They Now? Big Ideas Winners' Innovations Take Off

Since its founding in 2006, the Big Ideas Contest has supported thousands of student-initiated ideas aimed at finding creative solutions that address important social challenges.

For many of these teams, Big Ideas provides not only the initial funding and support necessary to launch their projects, but also the validation and confidence needed to take their innovations to the field. The process of competing in and winning the Big Ideas Contest has led the development of many successful initiatives. Among these are Back to the Roots, the Suitcase Clinic, and WE CARE Solar—each of which has grown from a big idea into an inspiring and impactful social venture.

In 2009, during their final year at UC Berkeley, Nikhil Arora and Alejandro Velez listened to a lecture at the Haas School of Business by Professor Alan Ross, who noted that it was possible to grow mushrooms from re-used coffee grounds. Intrigued by this possibility, Arora and Velez began growing buckets of mushrooms in the kitchen of their fraternity house and developed an idea to turn one of the Bay Area's largest waste streams—thousands of tons of coffee ground waste—into highly-demanded and nutritious food products. Arora and Velez submitted this idea to the Big Ideas contest, and after winning, put aside their consulting and investment banking job offers to launch a business they called Back to the Roots.

“Winning is what pushed us over the edge. We thought, let’s give this thing a shot, we have nothing to lose.”

Over the last few years, the company has expanded immensely. Back to the Roots and its grow-your-own mushroom kits have been featured on several media outlets including NBC’s TODAY Show, The Chew on ABC, and PBS. They recently added another product to their portfolio: a self-cleaning fish tank known as the AquaFarm that grows food like basil, wheat grass and parsley. Their products are now distributed nationally, and Arora says they are planning to expand even more in the upcoming year.

Similarly, Big Ideas assisted the Suitcase Clinic, a student organization that provides free healthcare services to homeless and low-income Bay Area residents, to expand its services to meet the needs of an increasing number of Bay Area homeless residents. In 2011 and 2013, the Suitcase Clinic competed in the Global Poverty Alleviation and Creative Expression for Social Justice categories. Winning Big Ideas allowed the Clinic not only to expand direct health services, but also to develop programs that take a more holistic view of healthcare. Among the new services offered to their clients are free dental services and support for smoking cessation.

“We were in a situation where we had to tell people that we could no longer afford the services, but we also wanted a holistic approach to address the problem,” said Brenna Alexander, who graduated in 2013 in Psychology and with a minor in Global Poverty and Practice. Alexander said that collaborating with the Blum Center for Developing Economies



Big Ideas winners Nikhil Arora and Alejandro Velez, founders of Back to the Roots, pose with their grow-your-own mushroom kits and a team of their collaborators. The two turned down more traditional job offers to launch their business, which now distributes their products nationwide.

and competing in Big Ideas was instrumental in her understanding of the different factors that create poverty and the best approaches in which to address it.

Other winning Big Ideas projects are global in scale. In 2008, Dr. Laura Stachel (then a DrPH candidate at the School of Public Health) developed an idea to provide electricity to a Nigerian hospital after observing doctors and nurses struggling to conduct nighttime deliveries and emergency maternity care. She named her project “Women’s Emergency Communication and Reliable Electricity” (WE CARE Solar). The project evolved to bring compact solar electric kits called “solar suitcases” to rural medical clinics in need of lighting and essential power. Stachel submitted her ideas to the Big Ideas contest in both the 2008 and 2010 contests and won awards for WE CARE Solar in both years.

Participating in Big Ideas and partnering with the Blum Center gave WE CARE Solar the early validation and traction it needed to grow. Its efforts have now been recognized by several other organizations including the MacArthur Foundation and Saving Lives at Birth Grand Challenge. In addition, Stachel was recently named a CNN Top 10 Hero of 2013. Since its inception, WE CARE Solar has served an estimated 300,000 childbearing mothers and their infants.

“Big Ideas allowed us to bring a dream to fruition,” Stachel said. “We had no idea that what would start as a single project in one hospital, would lead to an award winning organization that has now brought light and essential power to over 600 health facilities in 27 countries!”

Students interested in participating should explore the Big Ideas website, where they can find a variety of resources and guidelines about the contest.

“You have nothing to lose, only so much to gain, and might even gain a career,” Arora said. “It’s a chance to spend some time and get creative and find what you want to do.”

*By: Andrea Guzman
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To learn more, visit bigideas.berkeley.edu

Twenty-eight Ambitious Changemakers from UC Berkeley Attend Clinton Global Initiative

From March 21-23, 2014, twenty-eight UC Berkeley student innovators headed to Arizona for the annual Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI-U) conference. The students, who were selected on the strength of their "Commitment to Action," were eager to explore how they can make a difference in the world.

CGI-U 2014 hosted the largest cohort of passionate UC Berkeley students ever to attend. Hosted annually by former President Bill Clinton and Chelsea Clinton, the conference gathers over 5,000 students from 135 countries.

The Blum Center for Developing Economies, UC Berkeley's lead representative within the CGI-U Network, supports students who travel to the event and offers year-long advising to help students accomplish their project goals. Since its founding in 2006, the Blum Center has been a campus hub for social impact, inspiring and fostering an ecosystem of change-makers. This year, nearly three-fourths of the Berkeley projects featured at CGI-U have a Blum Center affiliation – either as participants in the BigIdeas@Berkeley contest, the Global Poverty and Practice Minor, or the Development Impact Lab.

Students attend CGI-U with a specific challenge and a defined one-year plan called a "Commitment to Action" that addresses a global issue in education, environment and climate change, peace and human rights, poverty alleviation, public health, or a related field. The weekend conference is packed with workshops and plenary sessions for students to build relationships, share ideas and solidify their action plans.



Cal students Matt Pavlovich and Connor Galleher had an opportunity to share their project, PlasMachine, with President Clinton at last year's CGI-U gathering. This year, the team returned to CGI-U before traveling to South Africa for the next phase of their work.
Photo credit: Barbara Kinney / Clinton Global Initiative

Junior Asad Akbany looked forward to the opportunity to engage with CEOs of companies that aim to address social problems. His project, "Kanga Kare," aims to prevent pre-natal deaths by providing rural hospitals in developing countries with safe, low-cost baby incubators. "Working with people you've never interfaced with before, working with a team that's based remotely, or learning how to make sure people stay motivated — hearing speakers address these things will be very helpful," says Akbany, a member of a team of seven.

Matt Pavlovich and Connor Galleher, CGI-U veterans from 2013, received

recognition from Bill Clinton himself for their project "PlasMachine" at the conference last year. The PlasMachine team constructs atmospheric pressure plasma devices that address water and sanitation needs in developing countries. Pavlovich and Galleher spent the past year revamping their prototypes and are ready to move closer to the implementation phase. "I think it really helped us in learning how to market what we're doing in a way that makes sense to the average person, so that someone who's not in plasma physics can approach it and understand it," Pavlovich shared about last year's conference. "It also lent our project a certain credibility." The two will be traveling to South Africa on a Development Impact Lab Explore Grant to build partnerships and assess consumer needs.



"What I've found at Cal is that the greatest wealth of knowledge is our peers," emphasized 100 Strong team member and CGI-U attendee Ruhi Nath (pictured above with teammates Vrinda Agrawal and Julie Brown), who is looking forward to networking with socially-minded peers from across the country and around the world. "The Blum Center and Big Ideas@Berkeley have been really supportive of 100 Strong, not in just the funding but with all of their guidance and advice, too," Nath added.

Teammates Ruhi Nath, Vrinda Agarwal, and Julie Brown attended CGI-U and represented their initiative, "100 Strong," which aims to empower local women to maximize their leadership potential. 100 Strong was a 2013 winner of the BigIdeas@Berkeley contest; the team members looked forward to joining CGI-U's diverse student community. "Having a community of really different people who are interested in changing the world for the better in their own specialty — I think that energy and excitement is really powerful," reflected Brown.

By: Abby Madan
Political Economy Major, 2nd Year

For updates about the CGI-U student attendees, follow #CGIU and @Blum_Center on Twitter or the Blum Center's Facebook page.

Global Poverty & Practice Alumna Nikki Brand Returns to Community Development in Latin America

As a freshly-minted Cal grad starting her first job in rural Guatemala, Global Poverty & Practice (GPP) Minor alumna Nikki Brand stumbled into two old friends and realized that her UC Berkeley experiences had come full circle.

Originally from Washington, D.C., Nikki came to Berkeley hoping to explore her interests in international relations. In her first year, she attended a talk by President Bill Clinton on student engagement in global development that was sponsored by the Blum Center, inspiring Brand to take Ananya Roy's GPP 115 class entitled Global Poverty: Challenges and Hopes in the New Millennium.

"I was an idealistic young freshman who was trying to figure out what an appropriate career path is in international relations, and I took Ananya's class and was so inspired by it and decided to declare the minor," Brand said.

Although she majored in Peace and Conflict Studies and also minored in Spanish, Brand describes the GPP Minor and Blum Center as a defining part of her experience at Berkeley. Brand served as a peer advisor and conducted research at the Center, and describes being very engaged in the community.

"It [the GPP Minor] is more than just classes. You become part of an amazing peer group and become engaged in a community where everyone is interested in the same things you are," Brand said. "For me, the Blum Center became a home away from home."

"Being part of the GPP and Blum Center community, there are so many amazing speaker events, opportunities to network with current GPP students and alumni, professors and practitioners, and for me, that was the best part."

In the summer of 2012, Brand conducted her practice experience—a mandatory fieldwork component of the Minor—with the organization Thirteen Threads in Panajachel, Guatemala. The organization supports cooperatives of indigenous Mayan weavers, empowering them to sustain themselves and their families. This experience was fundamental in cementing Brand's desire to work in Latin America.

During her practice experience, she conducted field research in Panajachel and the surrounding communities. One of the most memorable experiences during her formative time in Guatemala was five days she spent with two of her Guatemalan co-workers, indigenous young women near her age. She was able to connect with them on a personal level despite their different cultures and backgrounds. Instead of just being co-workers, they became close friends.

After graduating, Brand returned to Panajachel to work as a Field Consultant for Community Enterprise Solutions, a non-profit social entrepreneurship organization that trains local "microentrepreneurs" to market and distribute products with social and environmental utility, such as eyewear, water filters, solar lamps and chargers, and improved wood burning stoves. The organization provides the training and products to the microentrepreneurs free of charge, eliminating the usual need to take on a large financial risk to start a micro-business.



Photo Credit: Nikki Brand

Alumna Nikki Brand's GPP practice experience in Panajachel, Guatemala, inspired her to pursue a career in community development in Latin America. Here, Brand (seated, center) listens as her Guatemalan co-worker, Juana, tells her incredible life story while Juana's sister Marcela demonstrates traditional backstrap weaving.

Brand says that it was her previous work with Thirteen Threads and the skills she learned in the GPP Minor that helped her find the job. Moving to Guatemala just four days after graduation, Brand found the transition to be less difficult because of her background in critical poverty studies. She was the only member of the Community Enterprise Solutions team with a direct academic background in development, so she brought a unique contextual understanding and critical perspective to the work. Despite being new to the job and having to lead student interns just one or two years younger than herself, Brand felt comfortable thanks to her strong academic knowledge and previous experiences working in community development.

"That allowed me to hit the ground running when I arrived here and contextualize the work that I am doing," Brand said.

In her first week back in Guatemala, Brand had an unexpected but joyful reunion with the two young women she befriended during her practice experience and is now training them to work with Community Enterprise Solutions as microentrepreneurs, an experience she describes as her journey coming "full circle."

Brand advises students in the Minor or those who are interested in declaring to take advantage of all the opportunities and mentorship that the Blum Center offers.

"The most important thing that you get out of the Minor outside of the classes is the network," Brand said. "Being part of the GPP and Blum Center community, there are so many amazing speaker events, opportunities to network with current GPP students and alumni, professors and practitioners, and for me, that was the best part."

*By: Andrea Guzman
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Inter-American Development Bank and the Blum Center Co-host Discussion of Water Issues in Haiti

On March 10th, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), UC Berkeley's Blum Center for Developing Economies, and the Berkeley Water Group hosted a screening of *Water Everlasting?*, a documentary produced by the IDB that details issues of poor water administration in Haiti. The screening was followed by a panel discussion led by IDB representatives from Haiti and water experts from the Blum Center, and gave rise to important dialogue regarding ways to address water issues in Haiti.

As the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere, Haiti's water and sanitation has been marred by chronic underfunding, leaving millions without access to a clean and reliable water source.

The IDB, in collaboration with the Spanish government, has provided an \$86 million dollar grant that aims to enable Haitians to build and maintain a sustainable water administration system that reaches its entire population. The Haitian government agency DINEPA (Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement) is using this grant to build necessary infrastructure to create water sector reform through institutional capacity building.

The IDB's effort to strengthen DINEPA's initiatives is a step in the right direction, as it aims to strengthen existing state agencies instead of privatizing the supply of water. According to *Water Everlasting*, approximately 70% of Port-au-Prince's population of 3 million now gets their water from DINEPA kiosks located throughout the city.

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In a discussion moderated by Fermin Reygadas, Executive Director of Fundacion Cantaro Azul and UC Berkeley PhD candidate, a panel of experts considered aspects of water issues that took the audience beyond the documentary. The panel included Thierry Delaunay, Water and Sanitation Specialist for IDB's Haiti Country Office; Jose Irigoyen, IDB's Haiti Country Coordinator; Imran Ali, Global Poverty and Practice Postdoctoral Scholar; and Rebecca Peters, Founder and Director of the Pachamama Project. Each of the panelists brought their respective insights on water issues in developing countries.

The dialogue included a discussion on important indicators for project success, as well as ways in which a human rights framework for water can be applied to economic cost recovery. When applying a human rights framework, the panelists engaged in a debate about the practicality in charging Haitians for water, a universally recognized public good. Peters, a 2012-2013 Big Ideas@Berkeley winner, shared the importance of gender equity in the water sector, emphasizing that women are disproportionately impacted.

The IDB's *Water Everlasting?* viewings at universities around the country are helping to democratize development issues in Haiti by making them legible to the public. The events have created a public sphere conducive to valuable discussion and student involvement in this partnership. The screening at UC Berkeley was part of a West Coast series of screenings, with the final screening at the UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America.

Since 2013, the Blum Center has supported a formal and robust partnership with the IDB. The Blum Center and the IDB co-host Demand Solutions, an annual gathering that brings together innovators to discuss and share solutions for addressing development issues in Latin American and the Caribbean. The partnership is also highlighted by the Berkeley-IDB Impact Evaluation Collaborative (BIC), which brings IDB representatives to UC Berkeley for executive training programs on the role of impact evaluation in policy-making. The IDB's partnership with UC Berkeley marks the Bank's first partnership with an American university.



A panel of experts from the Inter-American Development Bank and UC Berkeley shared insights into water management in Haiti at a screening of the IDB's "Water Everlasting?". Extensive poverty and the destructive 2010 earthquake have left millions of Haitians without access to clean water.

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