What Is Art?

Sara Green ’01, former Lang Fund participant and Greenhouse Program student, is defining art through community with her nonprofit, Art for Refugees in Transition (ART). Unique among relief programs, ART aims to rebuild the sense of community in refugee camps through the preservation of indigenous art forms. A key feature of the program is that it is the refugee adults rather than outside aid-officers who run the programs and act as instructors. “It was important for the refugees to rebuild their sense of community and self-empowerment as well as retain their traditional art forms,” says Green. “With ART, we achieve both.” To ensure quality instruction, ART offers a curriculum for training the adult teachers as well as on-site consulting.

This year, the pilot program Green launched in Thailand is helping more than 21,000 Burmese refugees form committees within their living camps for instruction in weaving, instrument making, folklore singing and dance.

Although the SARS epidemic interrupted operations and forced Green back to the United States for the summer, she plans to return to Thailand this fall to help facilitate the on-site consulting.

In the meantime, Green remains committed to taking ART to the next level. As a former dancer, she knows firsthand the healing power of art: “No matter what was happening in my life, I could always turn to dance for comfort. I wanted to translate that feeling for other people.”

If you would like to learn more about ART, please contact Green at SGreen01@gsb.columbia.edu.

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Lang Center Welcomes Back R. Glenn Hubbard,
Former Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers

Afer a two-year appointment in Washington, D.C., as chairman of President George W. Bush’s Council of Economic Advisers, R. Glenn Hubbard, the Russell L. Carson Professor of Finance and Economics and academic director of the Lang Center, returned to Columbia Business School. “Academia and Columbia are my home,” says Hubbard.

During his time in Washington, Hubbard worked closely with the president and his economic team on budget and tax policy, health care, Social Security, international finance and environmental policy. He was particularly instrumental in drafting the president’s recently announced tax plan.

Now back at Columbia Business School, Hubbard will resume teaching classes in entrepreneurial finance, tax policy, and money and financial markets in the MBA and Executive MBA Programs. An advocate for entrepreneurship, Hubbard explains his choice to continue as codirector of the Lang Center: “I believe the understanding of entrepreneurship is critical for MBA students. The essence of entrepreneurship is figuring out how to create value by putting the pieces together in a different and better way—that is, identifying and valuing opportunity. . . . In starting a business, working within an established business organization or working in finance, concepts of entrepreneurship are central.”

Based on his recent experiences in Washington, Hubbard hopes to focus more time on researching the economics of health care, corporate governance and international financial institutions.