You might be familiar with the phrase, “Think globally. Act locally.” It’s a popular call to action that encourages people to have a heart for the world. Members of Regent University’s Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team are doing just that: making an impact both at home and around the globe—taking the SIFE slogan, “A head for business. A heart for the world.” literally.

“SIFE is specifically bringing top leaders of today and tomorrow together to create a better, more sustainable world through the positive power of business. It’s where the academic rubber meets the marketplace road,” says Dr. Greg Stone, professor for the School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship (GLE) and the team’s advisor. “Students get to apply what they learn in the classroom and see the direct results of their work.”

The 2011 SIFE team has helped a local Native American tribe retrieve approximately 70 acres of ancestral...
land. They also raised more than $12,000 for two food banks in Niger. Another initiative is empowering eight Nepalese girls rescued from human trafficking by funding four start-up sewing businesses.

“The Nepal project interested me because it was addressing the foundational needs of a marginalized population in one of the poorest countries,” says Regent undergraduate student and Nepal team leader Kim Denerstein. “The opportunity to apply classroom learning to the social justice issue of human trafficking prompted excitement among many of my classmates. So we quickly developed a team of students who are passionate about being catalysts for change.”

Regent SIFE partnered with Kingdom Investments Nepal and Greenbrier Christian Church in Chesapeake, Va., and raised more than $3,400 for microloans. The team upgraded the project’s business model to include electric sewing machines and a generator to power the equipment. The modern sewing equipment allows the girls to work 33 percent faster with greater precision, which increases their sales revenue.

“All Kim was given was the opportunity to apply what she knew from her ‘book learning’ to a real-world situation,” Stone explains. “And suddenly lives are really changed for the better—not after she graduates, but today, while she’s still a student!”

Stone sees the university and SIFE as two organizations with similar goals: “Regent’s mission is ‘Christian Leadership to Change the World.’ SIFE is an international nonprofit organization in 39 countries that...”
works with leaders in business and higher education to mobilize university students to make a difference in their communities while developing the skills to become socially responsible business leaders.”

Regent President Carlos Campo calls SIFE a great fit for the university: “It illustrates our belief that our students can be ministers of the gospel in a variety of settings. And ‘free enterprise,’ while not traditionally aligned with faith, can certainly be another avenue to be used by the Lord for His glory.”

According to Stone, SIFE has 400-plus teams that compete each year for the title of national champion. Twelve regional competitions are established across the United States to narrow the field down to approximately 120. At the SIFE regional competition in Charlotte, N.C., on March 21, the six presenters—Kim Denerstein, Mike Jackson, Hannah Mathew, Justin Taylor, Connie Tynes, and Brian James—representing the larger SIFE team took home the gold.

Their 24-minute presentation, “Empower,” won over the judges through storytelling and video—highlighting how they identified people in need, applied business and economic principles, and improved the quality of life and standard of living for participants in each of their projects. It was Regent SIFE’s seventh regional championship since they began competing in 2001.

“Regent SIFE has a significant national reputation for (1) being different and (2) being innovative and cutting edge,” Stone says. “Judges want to know the impact the team has made on people’s lives and, more importantly, the outcomes. So, it’s not enough to talk about how many homeless people you trained to get jobs—judges want to know how many of the people you trained got jobs!”

President Campo calls Regent SIFE’s video presentation “nothing less than spectacular.” He adds, “Their accomplishments over this past year are simply remarkable. My wife Karen and I are thrilled by the students’ success, and we feel that this group exemplifies Regent’s commitment to excellence and making Jesus the center of all we do.”

Learn more about SIFE and the School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship at regent.edu/global, or call 757.352.4550.
Since its founding in 1978, Regent has become a leading global Christian university. More than 15,000 alumni have been working in key professions over the past 30 years to impact the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In March, Regent added 98 Ecuadorians to its alumni ranks by awarding each of them an International Certificate in Organizational Leadership. Offered through the university’s School of Global Leadership and Entrepreneurship (GLE), the program was sponsored by Regent’s Office of Global Affairs (OGA) in partnership with Universidad Tecnologica Indomerica (UTI) in Ecuador.

Regent President Carlos Campo was in Quito, Ecuador, to award certificates to graduates: “This program is important to the university because it gives us an opportunity to fulfill our mission by equipping Christian leaders to change the world. It also extends our reach to a nation experiencing a great deal of change—one certainly in need of principled leaders of faith.”

“We also are able to connect with a number of leaders from business, industry and the government, as we look to find pathways for our students and professors to expand their global awareness.”

Dr. Sergio Matviuk, the university’s executive director of global affairs, says the program began as an effort by OGA to create opportunities for Regent faculty, students and alumni to increase their global competencies by serving abroad: “UTI was looking to expand its international network and wanted to develop educational programs with foreign schools. So this was a perfect match. GLE provided the curriculum and instructors, and UTI was in charge of program promotion, marketing and administration.”

Eight Regent instructors participated in the program, which Matviuk says was offered at two locations to organizational and business leaders, higher education administrators and professors, senior federal police officers, and 12 members of parliament: “This was the first-in-its-kind organizational leadership program offered in Ecuador. By having these types of programs, Regent strengthens its presence, influence and reputation in South America.”

President Campo says the certificate program will serve as a university model for similar partnerships in other countries: “While in Ecuador, I was impressed by the many leaders who are committed to the gospel having an even greater impact on the nation. I was especially moved to hear about a number of charismatic, indigenous pastors who are interested in developing stronger relationships with Regent University.

“The Ecuador initiative can be a template for other parts of the world in that leadership training is a key part of our mission. Regent is called by God to equip Christian leaders, and we also are determined to extend our global reach for students and professors.”

For information about the Office of Global Affairs, visit regent.edu/globalaffairs or email oga@regent.edu
Most college and university students head home for summer break. It’s a chance for them to reconnect and recharge for the academic year ahead. But three groups of Regent University students made different plans for their summer vacation and answered God’s call to travel to Europe, Africa and Asia.

Dr. Clifton Clarke, an associate professor for Regent’s School of Divinity, led a team of eight students to Ghana in May and will accompany a group of 17 to Europe in July: “The work that the students will be involved in will include evangelism in the villages and remote locations among the Hausa people of Tamale in Northern Ghana, who are mainly Muslims. The students will share the love of Jesus through daily working and being with them.”

The purpose of the Europe trip, which calls for the team to backpack through Austria, France, Germany and Italy, is something Clarke calls “global immersion.” He says the group will be “sharing the Good News of Jesus through people we meet. It will involve street evangelism through skits, mimes, testimonies, etc., and meeting and working with local churches, visiting key Christian sites, and recollecting the great Christian heritage that Europe has.” Clarke adds that these mission trips play an important role in accomplishing Regent’s core mission: “Equipping Christian leaders to change the world begins within us. It starts with expanding our global horizon, experiencing language, culture, values, political systems and histories. These trips are designed to build within students the confidence and boldness that you can go anywhere God sends you and survive, function and succeed.”

Ranjit Abraham is a graduate student and co-founder of Christ for India, a Regent student organization. Abraham led nine fellow Regent students on a mission trip to eight states across the subcontinent from May 11–27: “We support a ministry called New India Church of God that has close to 3,000 churches, 50 tailoring institutes for destitute women, 18 Bible schools, 10 orphanages, six high schools, an engineering college and more.”

Clarke has high hopes for the people who come in contact with Regent students this summer: “First and foremost I want them to experience the love of Christ through our students, and I also want them to know Him if they don’t. During the Ghana trip, the students shared through teaching and preaching in a more traditional setting. In Europe, it will be more informal and on the move. So we are trusting that the people we encounter will be blessed by our lives, testimonies and love for Jesus.”

To learn more about Regent University’s School of Divinity, visit regent.edu/divinity or call 800.723.6162.
Dear Friends,

The Regent community is thrilled by the accomplishments of our 2010-2011 Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team. In addition to winning a regional championship, these exemplary students prove that Regent is equipping Christian leaders who will change the world. When you partner with Regent, your prayers and gifts help our students, faculty, staff and alumni make a global impact in places like Ghana, Ecuador, India and others. At the center of these pages, you will find a postage-paid envelope that you can use to make a gift via check or credit card. Your financial and prayer support are essential to Regent remaining a leading global Christian university. Thank you for your generosity and continued friendship.

Grace and peace,

Carlos Campo, Ph.D.
Dr. Gary Maestas '09 (Education) has served as superintendent of public schools in historic Plymouth, Mass., since 2008. This spring, he’s going the extra mile for his students—an extra 600 miles, in fact. From June 6–12, Maestas will pedal from Washington, D.C. to Cape Cod in an effort to raise $100,000 for the Plymouth Education Foundation. The 47-year-old educator is calling his 600-mile trek the DreamRide: “This is my dream, and I wanted to find a way to help my kids, my school district and our teachers to be able to achieve their dreams.”

Please join the Regent University community in supporting and praying for Dr. Gary Maestas, June’s alumni world changer. Follow Maestas’ journey online at dreamride.us.

GIVING CREDIT
Regent makes it easy for friends and alumni to donate online. Make a gift using your credit or debit card by going to regent.edu/give. For more information about how you can financially support our efforts to equip Christian leaders to change the world, contact the Office of Advancement at 800.335.4409 or advancement@regent.edu.

A PLAN THAT MAKES CENTS
A sound financial plan is good common sense. Learn how to reduce your tax burden, maximize your income and endow Regent University—all at the same time. Call 800.335.4409 or email plannedgiving@regent.edu to schedule an appointment with our planned-giving specialist.

REGENT UNIVERSITY
By the Numbers
100,000 dollars is the fundraising goal for alum Gary Maestas’ 600-mile bike trek.
1,400 people have been helped by two SIFE-supported food banks in Niger.
98 Ecuadorians received an International Certificate in Organizational Leadership from Regent in March.
70 acres of ancestral land have been returned to the Nansemond Indian Tribe with the help of Regent SIFE.