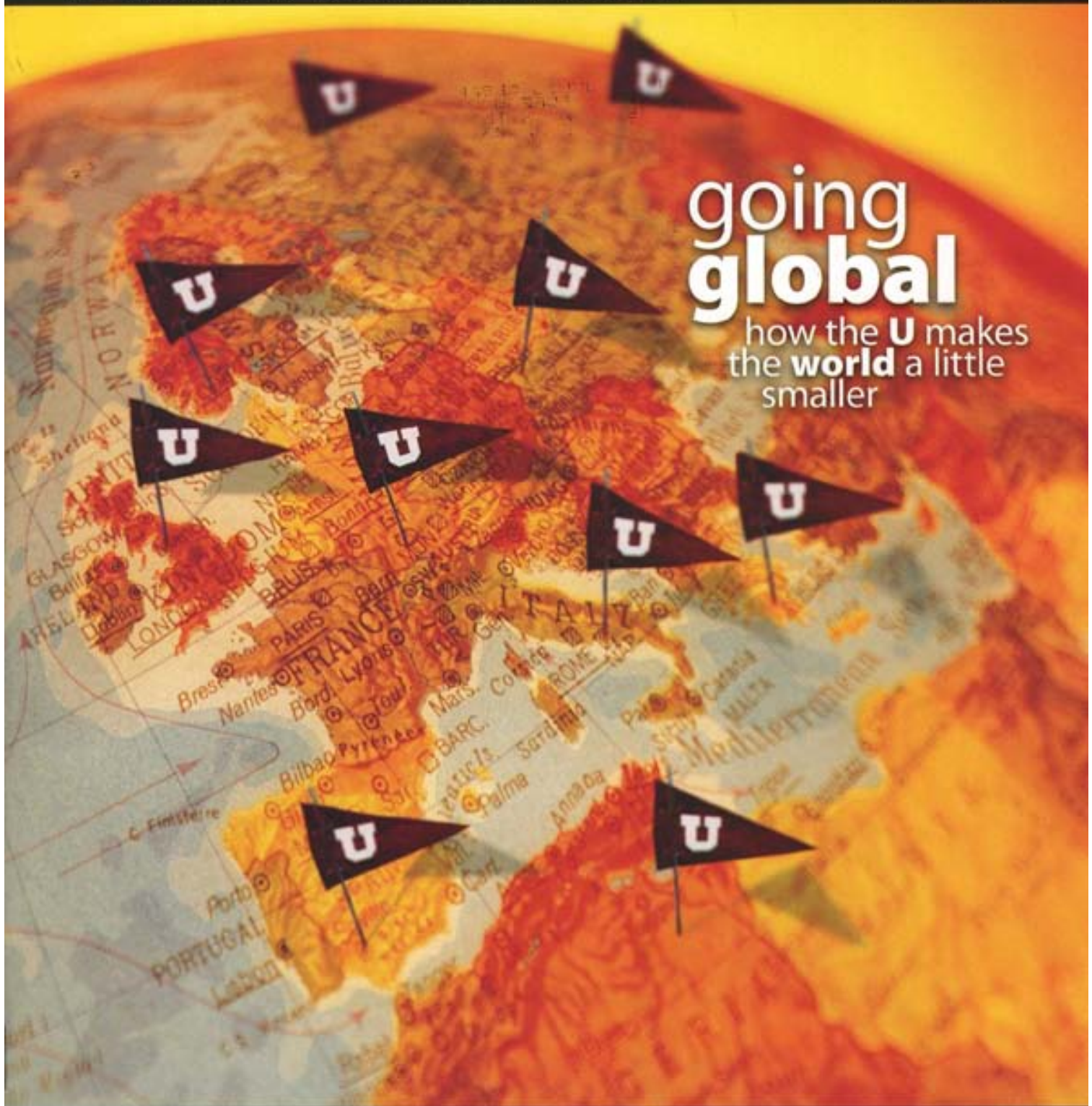


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# Continuum

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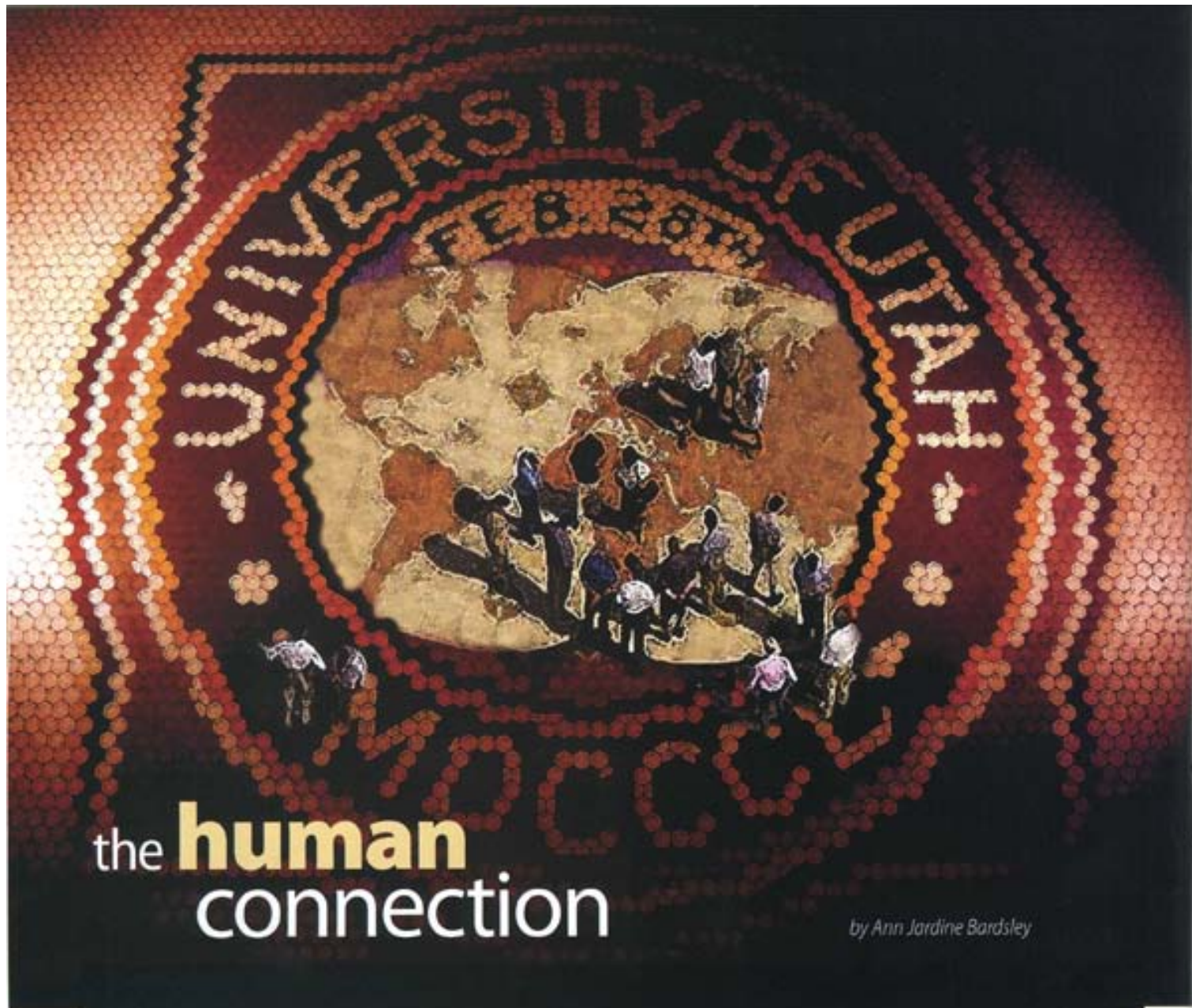
## going global

how the **U** makes  
the **world** a little  
smaller

▶ FACULTY WITH **INTERNATIONAL FLAIR**  
▶ **STUDY ABROAD:** FOREIGN LANDS, ALTERED LIVES

▶ FROM **WAR ZONE TO CENTER COURT**  
▶ **SHHH!** THE U'S BEST-KEPT SECRET





# the **human** connection

by Ann Jardine Bardsley

FOREIGN FACULTY BRING INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO THE CLASSROOM.

**Perhaps** the most tangible international connection on the University campus is the human one—the one that takes place between and among students, faculty, and staff. The interaction might occur between domestic faculty who have international ties, or between campus colleagues and students from foreign countries. This intermingling of cultures has the same effect campus wide: Students are transported from the classroom to other “global” environments, broadening the scope of ideas and disciplines.

Some 15 to 20 percent of the U’s faculty hails from other countries. In a typical year, the International Center processes and issues about 350 visas to both visiting scholars and tenure-track faculty. About half that number ends up staying at the U; the others are on temporary status and eventually return home.

Their stories, like the three presented here, illustrate how the U brings the world to our doorstep, one professor at a time.





## WILD NOTION

JULIO BERMUDEZ,  
ARGENTINA

**S**ome ideas need time to gestate, or must wait for the world to catch up with them. Others need coaxing along through collaboration, and maybe a "nice piano party" to facilitate them.

That's what happened with Julio Bermudez, a native of Santa Fe, Argentina, and an associate professor in the U's College of Architecture + Planning (CA+P).

"Way" back in 1995, Bermudez had what he calls a "wild idea." "Traditional architecture is about bricks and mortar, static and inert," he says. "What if you could have architecture that transforms with the life of a human being, in real time? So you breathe, and the architecture does something. Your heart feels emotion, and the architecture responds. What

if I could create an environment in which I could hook someone up, measure heart rate, brain waves, physical and muscular activities, and take that data to build form and space?" In other words, what if a body's rhythms were integrated with its environment? In 1995, those kind of ideas were considered fodder for a science fiction film.

Enter the piano party. At just such a gathering some years later, Bermudez struck up a conversation with Stefano Foresti, information visualization specialist at the U's Center for High Performance Computing. Together, they developed the analog-digital design method and theory for which Bermudez has received national and international recognition, a pioneering work bringing architectural insight to the field of information visual-

ization. Jim Agutter joined the project while a graduate student in the CA+P; since then, he has become the leader of information visualization work at CA+P.

Bermudez's work has lent itself to many multifaceted cooperative projects, often with educators and researchers in different fields. "Maybe this is cultural," Bermudez says. "Latins work in groups. My work is not bad alone, but I've noticed that all of my best work has been done in collaboration."

One such combined venture was cyberPRINT, a real-time, 3-D, dynamic human architectural model,

his ideas and research to his coming from a different culture. "I go home and I'm not Argentine anymore. But I'm not American, either," says Bermudez. "But what this gives me is multi-perspective. I never see concepts in just one way. Also, being from another culture, it's very uncomfortable to be unfamiliar, not to know. But obtaining creativity, invention, and newness in research requires not knowing—or being a fool at some point."

Currently, Bermudez, who practices Zen and prefers renting a South Temple apartment to purchasing

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"Latins work in groups. My work is not bad alone, but I've noticed that all of my best work has been done in collaboration."

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which also became a performance and computing event. Another project involved a team of anesthesiologists, bioengineers, cognitive psychologists, computer scientists, and musicians, who developed a highly intuitive replacement for traditional medical displays. This project and a variety of others utilizing similar technologies have attracted more than \$6 million in combined funding and include patent-pending products now being commercialized. Bermudez's collaborative work also extends into finance, defense, and network monitoring.

Bermudez credits part of the relationship between

real estate, is now focused on developing a philosophy and practice of Voluntary Architectural Simplicity (VAS), a move to pursue "essentialism." VAS is one possible design response to social and global challenges, explains Bermudez, a way to be environmentally responsible, reduce complexity, and stop living life in the fast lane—in short, to do more with less, and do it in something other than a six-bedroom McMansion on a one-third-acre lot scraped clean of vegetation.

"I profess the preservation of space. I am a minimalist at heart," he says. "I am exploring the process of remaining free by giving up, letting go, and by voluntarily choosing to be innocent."

