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LAUREN STIEGLITZ AND MIKE OTTO

HEARING 'EM SPEAK AT I-WEEK Dr Paul Farmer and Jody Williams address their Myer Horowitz audiences during keynotes on Tuesday and Wednesday night, respectively. For more I-Week coverage, turn to page 2.

AIDS and landmines mark International Week keynotes

An engaging and joke-filled speech shows that the shock of the cold wasn't too much for Paul Farmer after flying in from Haiti

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

You can't glamourize infectious diseases—go ahead and try, but you will fail and probably look rather foolish.

But for Dr Paul Farmer, Tuesday's International Week keynote speaker and a man who has made battling infectious diseases in Africa and the world over his life's work, it's often easy to make light of himself and the difficult task he faces in working to fight HIV/AIDS.

When discussing an email from a colleague regarding coming to see a patient in Haiti, he was perplexed as to why he would be asked to come check on such a straightforward case.

"I made the mistake of saying, 'Why do you want me to see him?' I really wanted him to say, 'Because you're the world's best infectious-disease doctor.' But that's not the smartest thing to do with a Harvard medical student because he said, 'Well, the patient is depressed; come cheer him up.' What am I, Clowns Without Borders?" Farmer said to uproarious laughter.

"I told that joke recently, and people came up to me afterwards and said, '*We're* from Clowns Without Borders,'" he added.

Farmer, a physician and anthropologist and one of the founders of Partners In Health (PIH), an international health and social justice organization, has been working in Africa for over 25 years and has helped reshape the country of Haiti by re-thinking how NGOs should operate.

"We weren't doing enough in Haiti to support the public sector, and that's the big weakness of public NGOs," Farmer explained, adding that PIH overcame this by shifting focus on three important goals for all of their projects: taking care of the sick, training local people to do this work, and building infrastructure.

While he has worked in many different hospitals across the United States and penned multiple books, Farmer explained that it's this type of social development that has been the most rewarding work over his career.

"It wouldn't be books or hospitals or things like that—although those are fine things too. It would be more about developing human capital."

Farmer also kept his talk light by joking on Edmonton's current weather, noting that while he thought he was prepared for the climate, he was sorely mistaken when arriving in the city.

"I really did want to come in the winter, but as a child born in Massachusetts who grew up in Florida, I found that upon arriving that I had a rather romantic notion of winter. I thought it would be snowing and 28 degrees *above* zero. Even in Siberia, where I worked for some time, I'm not sure I've ever been so cold."

> "This university is 100 years old and should be self-critical."
>
> **DR PAUL FARMER**

But amid the jokes and discussion of his extensive work on infectious diseases in Africa, Farmer had a powerful message for the university community that fell right in line with this year's I-Week theme of addressing global challenges.

"This university is 100 years old and should be self-critical. There's lots of wealth and resources in this part of the world, and, as I was saying, the President, for example, talked about the notion of citizenship. So how can universities like this with all its resources strengthen its citizenship outside of this area?" he said.

"[It] means thinking hard about how to respond to the needs of the people we're trying to serve, rather than the needs of the university and its students. That's actually the best way to serve students is serving other people. That's the best kind of citizenship I can think of: citizenship that underlies our responsibilities to one another."

For Nobel Peace Prize winner Jody Williams, finding out what you want to do with your life is half the battle; doing it is the rest

KIRSTEN GORUK
News Staff

Jody Williams has travelled to over 70 countries and dedicated her life to stopping US intervention in Central America, banning the use of landmines, and encouraging people to take action.

But for Williams, last night's I-Week keynote speaker, the road to becoming a global activist began with an unused psychology degree.

"I went back to school and got a degree in languages, teaching English as a second language and Spanish so I could go out and see the wider world," she explained.

The wider world lasted for about two years when she discovered that teaching languages wasn't for her.

"Frankly, I found [it] fundamentally boring," Williams recalled. "You have all the information, and you're trying to help people to say, 'My name is Sam.'"

Williams got into teaching to get out of Vermont, but ended up doing aid work in Central America rather than educating.

"Essentially from February of 1981 until May of 1992, I worked trying to stop US intervention in Central America—Nicaragua and El Salvador, primarily," Williams said.

Williams recognized that living abroad wasn't for her, so she dealt with a lot of back-and-forth travelling. After 10 years, she was burned out and looking for another drastic change to her lifestyle.

"My particular interest is in trying to stop war or mitigate the impact of war, not post-conflict reconstruction, even though it's critical not to have a country go back to war. It's just not what I enjoy," Williams explained.

In November of 1992, she was asked to begin work on globally uniting NGOs in an effort to stop the use of landmines. Despite never really thinking about landmines until that moment, she jumped at the chance to get involved.

"It was very easy to understand the issue of why landmines are different from guns, for example. It was a global challenge rather than little bitty Central America," Williams said.

In 1997, Williams' work with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) was recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize.

She welcomed the acknowledgement of the work of everyone involved and rather enjoyed her parents' reaction.

"It made my mom and dad stop saying, 'Everyone says you're so smart; why don't you be a lawyer so we know what you are?'" Williams recalled. "Now I walk on water, so to speak."

> "Just do one little thing; imagine all the one little things together, what a world we'd have."
>
> **JODY WILLIAMS**

Ten years later, Williams is teaching again, this time at the University of Houston. She also has a book coming out in March.

"It's about the first ten years of the life of landmine treaty but also the impact that our movement has had on other issues like human security and clusterbombs," Williams said.

Combine that with what she described as something like a memoir, a book of poetry, and a manual detailing organization tactics for activists, Williams is keeping busy, and she encourages others to do the same.

As someone who has devoted her life to making a reality out of changes she wants to see happen in the world, Williams doesn't mince words when talking about the future.

"Whining about things that bother you is a waste of energy. It's not going to change unless we all do our little part. Just do one little thing; imagine all the one little things together—what a world we'd have."

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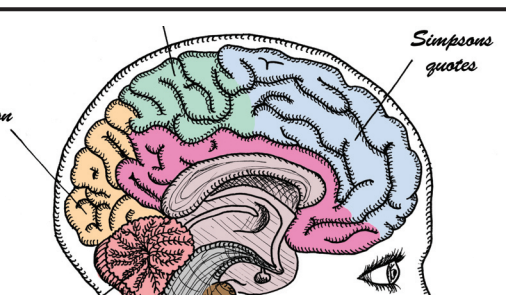
THE Student Body PART 2

Studying chem, counting sheep

Are all-nighters getting you down? You don't know the half of it. Part two of our Student Body feature examines the importance of what we all miss: sleep.

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