The immigrant experience through many lenses: Global Goes Local Conference

Music, economics, labor organizing and oral history were among the perspectives on the immigrant experience at Global Goes Local 2016.

In its sixth year, the conference on social conditions of Minnesota immigrant workers was held April 11-12 on campus. Minnesota is home to more than 400,000 immigrants from nations such as Mexico, India, Laos, Somalia and Vietnam.

Presentations included:
• Economist Bruce Corrie discussed the economic benefits Minnesota derives from immigrants, including more youth, high rates of entrepreneurship, connections to global opportunities and high rates of civic engagement. Learn more about the Concordia University professor at ethincapital.com.

• Mike Hasbrouck ’87 and Stearns County Pachanga Society performed “Cruzando Fronteras: A Musical Story about Immigration Told in Words, Music and Images.” A guitarist and singer, Hasbrouck is a St. Cloud State professor of Spanish in the Department of Languages and Cultures. The seven-piece Pachanga Society welcomed guest accordionist Dan “Daddy Squeeze” Newton.

• Saket Soni talked about organizing guest workers and day laborers. Soni is the executive director of New Orleans-based National Guestworker Alliance. Among other positions, the alliance argues the federal government’s guest worker program encourages labor exploitation, wage theft and worker mistreatment.

• Students in Mary Wingerd’s HIST 675 Oral History class hosted a panel discussion on its “We Are Minnesota: Recent Immigrant Oral History Project.”

Global Goes Local is organized by the Faculty Research Group on Immigrant Workers in Minnesota, which is funded by the School of Public Affairs and the College of Liberal Arts. The Corrie lecture is sponsored in part by the Office of the Dean of the Herberger Business School. The research group is directed by Stephen Philion, professor of sociology.