

## Shortening the Distance

by José Humphreys, p. 34

**How can we challenge and perhaps even redeem destructive cultural logics? José Humphreys says it's in our conversations.**

1. This issue of the *Companion* highlights needs in both urban and rural environments. Which culture do you feel more connected to?
2. What have you experienced that might support the findings from the Washington Post that say poverty is real and equal in both rural and urban areas?
3. After developing a relationship with an intern from West Virginia, Humphreys's understanding of the poor in rural areas expanded. When has a face-to-face encounter helped dispel assumptions you have made?
4. What does the statement "The shortest distance between two people is a conversation" mean to you?
5. What makes the type of sustained conversation discussed in this column challenging for you?