

Phased Self-Determination: A Way Out for Kosovo?

By Dennis J.D. Sandole, Ph.D., ICAR Faculty, dsandole@gmu.edu

While the world's sole surviving superpower remains fixed on global terrorism, civilizational clashes, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, another complex challenge is playing itself out in the Balkans, but passing largely unnoticed. This is the question of the final status of the Serbian province of Kosovo, with its predominant Muslim Albanian population — the last remaining problem from the genocidal dissolution of former Yugoslavia during the 1990s.

The lines have been drawn between the Kosovar Albanian position of (a) full independence versus Kosovar Serbs' / Belgrade's position of (b) "substantial autonomy." Former Finnish president Martti Ahtisaari, the Special Representative

of the UN Secretary General for Kosovo, has responded to this complex issue by recommending what amounts to "phased independence" under European Union (EU) auspices as the only viable way out for the Kosovo problem. However, this is perceived by many, including some in the EU as well as Serbs, as a zero-sum gain for the Albanians and loss for the Serbs.

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Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari meets Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu.
Photo: UNMIK/DPI

ICAR Receives \$102,000 Gift

By Lucy Dorick, Director of Development, ldorick@gmu.edu

Mr. Thomas J. Scott II, a longtime friend of ICAR and the founder of the Center for Policy Negotiation in Boston, has left a \$102,000 bequest to ICAR to benefit the John W. Burton Endowment Fund. The interest from the Burton endowment is used to provide student support, faculty intervention assistance, publications and outreach support, and to fund elements of ICAR's operational needs. Mr. Scott passed away on March 20, 2007.

Mr. Scott was born in 1920 in Providence, R.I., served in the Navy during World War II, and graduated from Harvard University in 1946. He had a long and distinguished career in the fields of energy policy and negotiations. In 1971, he served as the president and CEO of Buckley & Scott, a heating oil distribution company in Needham, Mass. During the 10 years he spent with the company, he served as the president of the Center for Energy Policy in Boston, Mass. In 1980, he became president of the Center for Policy Negotiation,

which specializes in public policy conflicts related to energy, air and water pollution, and development.

Mr. Scott's interest in ICAR stemmed from his admiration of the work of John W. Burton, a pioneer in the field of conflict resolution and a former ICAR faculty member. Mr. Scott's relationship with ICAR deepened over time; in 1994, he and ICAR Prof. Rich Rubenstein co-hosted a conference on understanding xenophobia and ethnic conflict.

The \$102,000 bequest from Mr. Scott is particularly important for ICAR because it will help build long-term endowment funds to support students and faculty far into the future. "This is a tremendous gift to ICAR and will provide vital support to expand the services and publications of our faculty and students," said ICAR Director Sara Cobb. Mr. Scott's gift will allow ICAR faculty and students to further

"This is a tremendous gift to ICAR and will provide vital support to expand the services and publications of our faculty and students."

—SARA COBB, ICAR DIRECTOR

pursue their dual goals of advancing scholarship and refining practice in the field of conflict analysis and resolution. The entire ICAR community

gratefully acknowledges the contribution Thomas Scott has made to our institute and the future of our field.

If you would like to make a donation to the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, please address it to:

ICAR Donation
c/o Lucy Dorick
3401 Fairfax Drive, MS 4D3
Arlington, VA 22201
Email: ldorick@gmu.edu

Current fundraising campaigns include student financial support and Point of View, ICAR's campaign to create and fund an international research and retreat center at Mason Neck, Virginia. Funds can be specified for a specific campaign, or designated for use in the general ICAR campaign. ■



Sandra Ruckstuhl, above, is a doctoral student at ICAR.

Graduate Students Win Dissertation Proposal Fellowship

By Ryann Doyle, Published in Mason Gazette, 07/20/07

Selected from a highly competitive national pool of applicants, two Mason students were awarded Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowships by the Social Science Research Council, allowing them to focus on and develop their dissertation proposals this summer. The students will receive up to \$5,000 as a stipend for pre-dissertation research.

Sandra Ruckstuhl, a PhD student in Mason's Conflict Analysis and Resolution Program, is using the grant money to develop a case study focused on conflict and cooperation in water management in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Specifically, she will be looking at political economies and political ecologies of institutions.

She expects to work with the staff of nongovernmental agencies, donor agencies, the Bosnian government and others who are working or have worked on water management projects. She aims to have her dissertation completed by May 2009.

This summer, Ruckstuhl is serving as a consultant for the World Bank in Washington, D.C., on water resources management from a social scientist's perspective. She will be working on projects in the West Bank/Gaza and South Asia. She will also be studying for her comprehensive exams in August. Afterwards, she plans to go to Bosnia to work on her dissertation. ■

Panel Examines U.S.-Iran Relations

ICAR Hosts Policymakers in Discussion at National Press Club

By Daniela Stevens, Published in Mason Gazette, 04/26/07

The First Amendment Lounge at the National Press Club was filled to capacity on Monday when members from the international and national media, Mason students and faculty and the general public listened to a panel discussion on averting armed conflict between the United States and Iran.

The event was hosted by Mason's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR) and moderated by ICAR professor Richard Rubenstein.

Opening the discussion, Rubenstein pointed out that the tense relationship Iran has with the United States began in 1953, when Iranians looked to America as a friend sent to distance them from Russian and English exploitation.

"When the U.S. ended up acting much like its former exploiters, the relationship was never again the same," said Rubenstein.

Although panelists disagreed on Iran's decision to continue with its nuclear program or whether or not unilateral or multilateral sanctions were appropriate or effective, they did agree on two things: that the United States was not in a good position to go to war with Iran; and by engaging in diplomatic dialogue on different levels, war could potentially be prevented.

Panelist Trita Parsi, president of the National Iranian American Council, pointed out that in addition to dialogue, changing the paradigm of the balance of power that currently exists in the region into a more European model, based on collective security, would focus the countries' interest on more productive matters than war. "The U.S. relationship with Iran is taking place in a



U.S. Representative Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD), pictured above, at ICAR Iran Roundtable.

region where there is no security ... collective security should be pursued, in all instances, through dialogue," he said.

Another panelist, Rep. James Moran (D-VA), did not hide his negative view of the situation and the current White House administration.

"There are not enough American people, or even congressmen who understand that we cannot go to war with Iran. They don't even realize that Iran is not an Arab state, that it is three times larger than Iraq and has a population of over 71 million people. We do not have the capacity to engage in military action in Iran, and it would be insane for us to do so."

Rep. Moran continued, "Besides discourse and collective security, the key forward to a more stabilized relationship with Iran is a new, more rational administration that doesn't rely on threat in order to feel powerful. My only hope is that the Iranian people don't judge the

American people by our president and that we don't do the same to them."

Moran agreed with fellow panelist Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD) that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is not an ideal diplomat or leader either.

The panelists agreed that the current relationship between the United States and Iran has deteriorated to a point that military confrontation, perhaps provoked by other incidents in the Persian Gulf, now seems possible. They also believe that greater discourse, collective security and diplomacy are needed to potentially save the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

Other panelists who participated in the discussion were Joseph Montville, chairman of the board for the Center of the Study of World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict at Mason and Diplomat in Residence at American University; and Jake Colvin, director of USA Engage. ■

initiatives

Congressman Moran Urges ICAR Graduates to Engage, Not Stand Idle

By Michael Shank, Government Relations Advisor, mshank@gmu.edu

EVENTS

On May 19, 2007, delivering the commencement address for the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR), U.S. Representative James Moran (D-VA) implored graduates to engage in a range of domestic and foreign policy conflicts rather than sit idle on the sidelines. Presenting for a packed Harris Theatre on George Mason University's Fairfax campus, Moran began by first heralding ICAR as "an academic program whose unique focus on peace through understanding and reconciliation may be the most important academic curriculum in the country," then lauding the graduates as "far better than virtually anyone to make a profound difference in the direction of world affairs."

Outlining some of the United States' most pressing conflicts, Moran called for graduates to



U.S. Representative James Moran (D-VA), pictured above, at ICAR graduation ceremonies.

help forge positive solutions on the salient issues of the day, e.g. immigration, Guantanamo, and the nation's growing economic disparity. The foreign policy solicitation was no less vigorous, listing Darfur, Iraq, Afghanistan, climate change, and Palestine/Israel as conflicts in grave need of the type of assistance ICAR graduates can offer. Conflicts like these were precisely the types of situations that cried out for people of ICAR insight and intellect.

Stressing the timeliness of involvement, "I hope some of you will be able to facilitate a different approach to such seemingly intractable conflicts before it's too late," said Moran.

Moran was firm about the consequences of non-engagement, stating that "If you choose, instead, to stay on the sidelines...choosing to observe rather than to determine our planet's fate, then those who

are too easily succumbed to the purist appeal of fundamentalist doctrine, or the simplistic approach of military violence to resolve differences among nations, or the manipulation of the truth to achieve partisan political goals, they will in fact prevail."

Closing with a reference to Elie Wiesel's work, Moran reiterated his overarching challenge to the ICAR graduates.

"The most tragic times in human history," said Moran quoting Wiesel, "were brought about not as much by the propagandists or the killers or the dogmatists, but because they were times of transition and too many good people chose personal security or existential non-engagement and left it to others to determine the course of history."

A message with a profound lesson, no doubt, for the field of conflict analysis and resolution. ■

Upcoming ICAR Community Events

For more info on events, email jlock1@gmu.edu.

September 15: Welcome Dinner

5:30-9:00 pm, Law School (*Invite Only*)

September 15-16: Alumni Symposium

Law School

October 14-17: Partnering for Peace: Transatlantic

Concepts for Conflict Resolution in Public Policy (*Invite Only*)

October 22: Lynch Lecture, Guest Speaker Lee Hamilton

6:00-9:00 pm, National Press Club

October 27: Development Career Intensive

10:00-4:00 pm, Truland Bldg, Room 555

November 8: Open House

6:00-9:00 pm, Truland Bldg, Room 555

Online Analysis

The ICAR News Network, developed by ICAR staff Michael Shank and Paul Snodgrass, is a new online forum featuring current analysis by conflict specialists at ICAR. The forum addresses some of the world's most salient and intractable conflicts and provides critical next steps for constructive engagement.

Hosted on the ICAR website, the ICAR News Network posts short analytical pieces, guided by the theories and principles of the field of Conflict Resolution and written by ICAR faculty, alumni and students.

The ICAR News Network provides a resource for Washington policymakers and think-tanks, business leaders, NGO and UN representatives, news agencies and others interested in quality, substantive analysis of current global and domestic conflicts.

Submissions reflect only the author's viewpoint and are reviewed by ICAR staff to ensure highest quality. Forum topics include local, national and international conflicts. Current topics on the ICAR News Network include the following:

- Afghanistan
- Diplomacy
- Egypt
- Environment
- Global Peace Index
- Immigration
- Iran
- Iraq
- Islam
- Kosovo
- Nuclear Proliferation
- Pakistan
- Palestine-Israel
- Somalia

For ICAR faculty, students or alumni interested in submitting analysis, please email icarnews@gmu.edu or go to ICAR's website for more information. ■

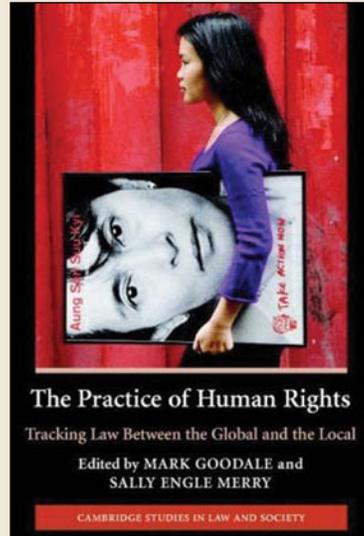
New Books*

The Practice of Human Rights: Tracking Law Between the Global and the Local

Cambridge University Press
Edited by Mark Goodale, ICAR Professor, and Sally Engle Merry

Book Description

Drawing on anthropological studies of human rights work from around the world, this book examines human rights in practice. It shows how groups and organizations mobilize human rights language in a variety of local settings, often differently from those imagined by human rights law itself.



ICAR Bookstand*

In the Moment of Greatest Calamity: Terrorism, Grief, and a Victim's Quest for Justice

Princeton University Press
By Susan Hirsch, ICAR Professor

Identity, Morality, and Threat: Studies in Violent Conflict

Lexington Books
Edited by Daniel Rothbart & Karina Korostelina, ICAR Professors

Thus Saith The Lord: The Revolutionary Moral Vision of Isaiah and Jeremiah

Harcourt Trade Publishers
By Richard Rubenstein, ICAR Professor

Peace and Security in the Postmodern World

Routledge
By Dennis J.D. Sandole, ICAR Professor

Zones of Peace

Kumarian Press
Edited by Landon Hancock, ICAR Ph.D. Alumnus & Christopher Mitchell, ICAR Professor Emeritus ■

New Working Papers*

Managing Protracted and Deep Rooted Conflicts in the U.S. Senate

By Richard A. Coccozza, ICAR Ph.D. Student

Consensus Among Stakeholders: A Call for Change in Virginia's Involuntary Civil Admissions Process

By Sandra Cheldelin, ICAR Professor, Monica S. Jakobsen, ICAR Ph.D. Student, and Deanna S. Yuille, ICAR Masters Student ■

Recent ICAR Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor

A New Opening for Mideast Peace

By Marc Gopin, ICAR Professor, and Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA)
Baltimore Sun, September 4, 2007

Middle East Muddling

By Dennis Sandole, ICAR Professor
International Herald Tribune, August 31, 2007

How to Challenge Iran's Militancy Without Using Arms

By Marc Gopin, ICAR Professor, and Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)
Christian Science Monitor, August 23, 2007

In Pursuit of Turnaround on a US Policy Catastrophe

By Dennis Sandole, ICAR Professor
Financial Times, August 16, 2007 ■

*Available on the ICAR Website

Khadija O. Ali

Khadija O. Ali, a doctoral student at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, is being spotlighted this month for her tireless efforts to bring peace and stability to Somalia. Ali, a former member of the Somali Transitional National Parliament and a Minister of State at



the Transitional National Government from 2000 to 2002, recently briefed the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee on the conflict in the Horn of Africa.

Organized by the African subcommittee, Ali discussed critical next steps for the United States in dealing with Somalia's Transitional Federal Government, Ethiopia's troop presence, African Union peace-keeping forces, the national reconciliation conference and

the moderate Islamic leadership in Mogadishu.

Complementing her policy advocacy on the Hill, Ali provides frequent conflict analysis on the situation in Somalia for several media outlets including the *Arab News* and *Daily News Egypt* (two of the largest English language newspapers in the Middle East and northern Africa respectively) and *Foreign Policy in Focus*, an online foreign policy journal in the United States.

Additionally, Ali regularly convenes and facilitates dialogue among the Somali-American diaspora vis-à-vis critical next steps for resolving the conflict in Somalia. Most recently, Ali co-organized a meeting of 150 diaspora in

Columbus, Ohio, to forge a declaration concerning Somalia; a statement that ultimately called for the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops, neutral peacekeeping forces, reconciliation processes involving all stakeholders, and a fairly elected government. Ali's doctoral dissertation is on the role of political leadership in post-conflict peacebuilding processes in transitional societies. Comparing Mozambique and Somalia, her research will examine how and why certain political leaders/systems are able to bring peace and stability while others are not. ■

Lisa Shaw

ICAR is proud to announce that the undergraduate Conflict Analysis and Resolution Program (CAR) advisor, Lisa Shaw, received the George Mason University 2006-2007 Advisor of the Year Award.

Lisa, a 2007 Masters graduate from ICAR, is now the Student Services coordinator for the undergraduate program.

Her region of interest throughout her graduate studies has been Latin America with particular emphasis on the Chiapas conflict in Mexico, immigration from Central America,



and the impact of immigration on non-traditional receiving communities in the United States. Her thesis is entitled *Beyond the Border: Public Policy and Irregular Migrants in Northern Virginia Municipalities*.

"I feel the study is significant because non-traditional small towns and cities in the United States are beginning to deal with the arrival of large numbers of immigrants, and may benefit from an analysis of factors that contribute to conflict within communities around the issue of immigration," says Shaw.

As a member of ICAR's Latin American and Caribbean Working Group (LACWG), Lisa developed an idea to create an event around the issue of immigration in local communities. As a team, the LACWG worked for eight months to create a dialogue in Manassas/Prince William County, Virginia with a community that has been experiencing increased tensions regarding the number

of undocumented immigrants in the community, and the legislation being produced at the city and county level.

"Needless to say, the most rewarding aspect of my job is working with our students, whose depth, caliber and personal experiences with conflict translates into students who are genuinely interested in pursuing the somewhat non-traditional degree of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, and adventurous enough to pursue the maze of opportunities this degree prepares them for," Shaw said. ■

“Needless to say, the most rewarding aspect of my job is working with our students, whose depth, caliber and personal experiences with conflict translates into students who are genuinely interested in pursuing the somewhat non-traditional degree of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, and adventurous enough to pursue the maze of opportunities this degree prepares them for.”

—LISA SHAW

A Way Out for Kosovo

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not receive even “phased” independence, then they are likely to unilaterally declare their independence or otherwise be the source of renewed hostilities in the Balkans, with potential for spillover to Bosnia-Herzegovina and elsewhere in the region

(e.g., Macedonia which has a sizeable Albanian minority).

Is there not a way out here for Kosovo and the region or are we stuck with a failure of imagination and another likely descent into ethno-political warfare?

Let’s suppose that we — the “concerned international community” — were to conduct an “experiment” and map the trajectories of implementing both of these strategies. In the shorter term (10-15 years), both trajectories look similar. It is only in the 15-25 year time frame for effective post-conflict peacebuilding that the trajectories diverge into “full independence” or “substantial autonomy.” Suppose then that a reframing of Ahtisaari’s plan as “phased self-determination” captures the overlap of these shorter term trajectories.

If that were, indeed, the case, then we could implement the *phased self-determination* reframing of the Ahtisaari plan, in lieu of either of the two original positions, for 10-15 years. This would buy time for effective post-conflict peacebuilding and for Kosovo to have been absorbed into the European Union where it might not matter too much who “owns” it — especially if *all* Kosovars had access to the security and recognition of their *identities* and in general, to the “good life” traditionally experienced in “*virulently ethnocentric*



systems” only by dominant majorities at the expense of marginalized, often oppressed minorities.

This *reframing* of Ahtisaari’s proposal does not dismiss, but rather builds upon it to render the process culminating in Kosovo’s final status as less likely to lead to a resumption of genocidal conflict in the Balkans. It is also compatible with French President

Sarkozy’s recent attempt to persuade his G8 counterparts at their annual summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, to delay for six months the UN Security Council vote on Kosovo’s final status in order to provide more time for further negotiations. Significantly, this is what

the Russians (Serbia’s primary ally) want in order to preempt their threatened veto should the vote come up, in their view, prematurely.

That the EU has recently decided to restart negotiations with Serbia’s new pro-reform government about its eventual entry into the EU, a year after the EU ceased such negotiations because of Serbia’s apparent resistance in locating and handing over to The Hague Tribunal indicted war criminals, is a further sign that such a reframing could actually succeed! With *both* Kosovo and Serbia in the EU, “ownership” of the province should become a moot point.

But should ownership remain an issue, Serbia could then be allowed to retain *de jure* sovereignty over Kosovo while the dominant Albanian population enjoys *de facto* sovereignty by “leasing” the province from Belgrade, with funding provided by the international business community which

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ICAR Faculty Awarded University Distinction

Author of “Thus Saith the Lord”, “Aristotle’s Children”, “When Jesus Became God”, and other books and articles, and professor at George Mason University’s Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR), Richard E. Rubenstein can now add the title of University Professor to his already impressive resume.

To be nominated for this distinction among full-tenured faculty at Mason, faculty members must have an international scholarly reputation, a strong record of research, and a recognizable influence on their individual fields. This year, the university’s Board of Visitors named 18 new University Professors, one of whom was Rubenstein.

When asked about the award, Rubenstein said “It’s always nice to be recognized by one’s university, but this has a special meaning to me, since it is also a way of recognizing our field, not just one professor’s work. Conflict analysis and resolution is clearly coming of age.”

In addition to working on a new book tentative titled, “Why We Fight, and How We Can Stop: New Insights from the Field of Conflict Resolution,” Rubenstein is organizing a major international conference in October to examine the role of the conflict resolution field in public policymaking. The conference, “Partnering for Peace: Transatlantic Concepts for Conflict Resolution in Public Policy,” is co-organized by ICAR and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and is the first time U.S. and European conflict resolution professionals are convening to explore best practices in shaping public policy. ■



Celebrating 25 Years of Pioneering Theory, Research, and Practice at ICAR

For 25 years, our faculty, students and alumni have addressed deep-rooted conflicts wherever they occur — in metropolitan Washington D.C., across the United States, and on the international stage. We have been leaders in the field since our founding: ICAR was one of the first groundbreaking “Theory Centers” funded by the Hewlett Foundation. We created the world’s first Master of Science and doctorate in conflict resolution, and we recently expanded our programs to serve undergraduate students and mid-career professionals. ■



Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

3401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 4D3, Arlington, VA 22201

A Way Out for Kosovo

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would benefit from stability in the region. This would be accompanied by the Ahtisaari plan’s guarantees for protection of the human rights of Serbs and other minorities in the province, plus the promise of Kosovo’s eventual entry into the European Union along with Serbia and other states of the Western Balkans.

This reframing would be far more likely to succeed than the Ahtisaari plan as currently formulated — the difference being between “phased independence” for the province (which sets off alarm bells in Belgrade and Moscow) and “phased self-determination” for all in the province (which remains sufficiently vague but *hopeful enough* to merit further attention).

Accordingly, further details would have to be worked out on just what the exact differences are between “phased self-determination” (this reframing of the Ahtisaari plan) and “phased independence” (the Ahtisaari plan), in responding to the need for bold thinking and action on the Kosovo issue as a basis for enduring peace, security, and stability in the Balkans, with implications for similar conflicts elsewhere. ■

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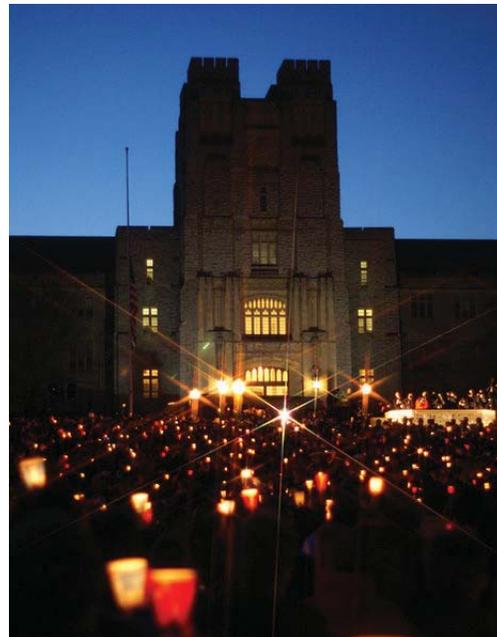
Rethink Needed in Virginia Mental Health Services

By Sandra Cheldelin, Ph.D., ICAR Faculty, scheldel@gmu.edu

The tragedy of Seung Hui Cho's murder and suicide has reverberated across the country, yet many of the responses to Virginia Tech's disaster will not prevent similar incidents from occurring because they fail to address the complexity of the problem—in Virginia and other states—in dealing with persons with mental illness. The current system is deeply flawed and needs fixing.

The recent Virginia Tech Review Panel's report identifies 21 ways that things went wrong. Fingers are wagged at University officials—administrators, counselors, campus police, Dean of Students—for communication failures, lack of leadership, inadequate record keeping, confusion about possession of firearms on campus, and an inability

to inform the public in a timely and comprehensive manner when such an event occurs. It makes sense that colleges across the country learn from Virginia Tech's incident and put into place appropriate changes to improve organizational systems. [Our university has created Mason on Alert—a Web site to inform people of internal or external crises.]



VA Tech Candlelight Vigil. Photo: Wikipedia Commons

However, the panel's report and campus changes do not address what we must do when persons with mental illness are in deteriorating phases—as was the case of Seung Hui Cho.

Mental health providers at Community Services Boards (CSB)—professionals responsible for mental health services in the community—know that our system is not working and asked ICAR last year to

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Commentary

French, Cumbie Visit ICAR

By Lucy Dorick, Director of Development, Idorick@gmu.edu

Longtime ICAR supporters Drucie French and Steve Cumbie visited ICAR this month to welcome Dr. Andrea Bartoli as the new Drucie French Cumbie Chair in Conflict Resolution. When Drucie and Steve established this Chair at ICAR nearly two decades ago, they became pioneers in providing long-term financial support to the fledgling field of conflict resolution.

“The Drucie French Cumbie Chair is the perfect environment for the growth of integration of theory and practice,” said Dr. Bartoli, who was named to the post in July, 2007 after a two-year search. “I am honored to be working in this capacity and contributing to the study and practice of peacemaking.”

Drucie was chair of the ICAR Board of Advisors and great friend of Ed Lynch. For more than a decade, she was intimately involved in ICAR’s work, familiar with faculty and students, and well-versed in the importance of ICAR’s endeavors. As she and Steve increasingly saw the need

to build the field of conflict analysis and resolution, they generously gave of their time and money to sup-

port the cause. The prestigious Drucie French Cumbie Chair provides funding for a senior-level faculty member in conflict analysis and resolution. Dr. Mary E. Clark was the first ICAR instructor to hold the Chair followed by Dr. Chris Mitchell who served for more than 10 years.

Drucie and Steve are accomplished in their own fields. Drucie obtained her Ph.D. in Mythological Studies from the Pacifica Graduate Institute. She is an author, lecturer, and president of the Foundation for Mythological Studies, an organization focused on creating a “renewed interest in the cultural heritage of mythologies.”

She is also a board member of the Archives and Research Center at the Pacifica Graduate Institute. She serves on the

“The Drucie French Cumbie Chair is the perfect environment for the growth of integration of theory and practice.”—ANDREA BARTOLI, ICAR FRENCH CUMBIE CHAIR

Board of Visitors and the Women’s Leadership Council at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Steve is president of NV Commercial,

a commercial real estate development and property management firm in Northern Virginia. He is also president of Metro Realty Group, chairman of NVRetail, and a partner of Corporate Oaks.

In addition to his real estate work, Steve is a commissioner of the Virginia Port Authority and chairman-elect of the INOVA Foundation Board of Trustees. He has served on the boards of Virginia Public Building, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, and Imanco, which provides consulting services to the Inova Health Systems Foundation.

“Drucie and Steve are one of the most generous couples that I know,” said ICAR Director Sara Cobb. “I applaud their early leadership support of the field and am thrilled that Dr. Bartoli received this very distinctive honor.” ■

network



Andrea Bartoli, above, is ICAR’s new French Cumbie Chair.

Dr. Andrea Bartoli: Excerpts from the Welcome Reception Address

By Andrea Bartoli, ICAR French Cumbie Chair, abartoli@gmu.edu

ICAR has a long tradition. It might not seem so to so many here but for the relatively new field of conflict resolution ICAR is landmark. With rank and prestige comes responsibility. The field is in need of redefinitions, of new conceptual frameworks, of new explorations. No other school or institute is as well placed as ICAR to serve this process well, collaboratively, rigorously, effectively. No other institute has the same reach, history and location. No other institute can count alumni and faculty with a dedicated focus. In a moment in which we are moving away from techniques, the field requires a renewed sense of engagement of other disciplines while developing its own core understanding of how conflict occurs, and of the processes associated with the emergence of peace.

I am convinced that here with so many dedicated colleagues we will succeed in redefining the methods that will help us to generate robust theories and best practices. Peace is not an easy dream: it is a profound desire of the human spirit and a need of multitudes, made poorer by the violence and destructiveness of the war. Peace doesn’t come in withdraw, in a fearful fleeing from the dangers of history. Rather it comes from courageously engage the powerful and the powerful to be, making politics shrewdly, effectively, committingly. Thanks. ■

ICAR Launches New Online Forum

Over 300 ICAR Members Registered

By Paul Snodgrass, Technology Assistant and Webmaster, psnodgra@gmu.edu

The new ICAR Community Network and Forum was launched on August 31st and within three weeks, over 300 members of the ICAR community have joined. This new online forum is based upon infrastructure offered by ning.com and features a popular social networking format with robust user generated content. Users are able to share text, photos, videos, and more in a variety of contexts such as individual user pages, blogs, forum discussions, and within groups.

Groups have been created within the network for the faculty, GSCS (Graduate Students in Conflict Studies), the alumni chapter, undergraduate program, certificate program, as well as for working groups, projects, specific courses and social activities. In total, there have been 33 groups created so far.

The Discussion Forum features postings by scores of people includes entries ranging from announcements of events (ICAR and external), courses, grants, scholarships, and conferences to discussions on current events and items for sale. This is the easiest way to spread the word to the ICAR community about almost anything you can think of. Pages created by individuals add a layer of personal connection and help with the matching of names and faces in our growing community. This is also a great way to share stories and experiences about your work and life with people who are scattered across the globe.

The network is searchable, making it easy to find members of the ICAR community with particular interests and specialties. For alums, it's a great way to find ICAR folks who are practitioners



Image Above: ICAR Forum Homepage, Image on Lower Right: ICAR Groups

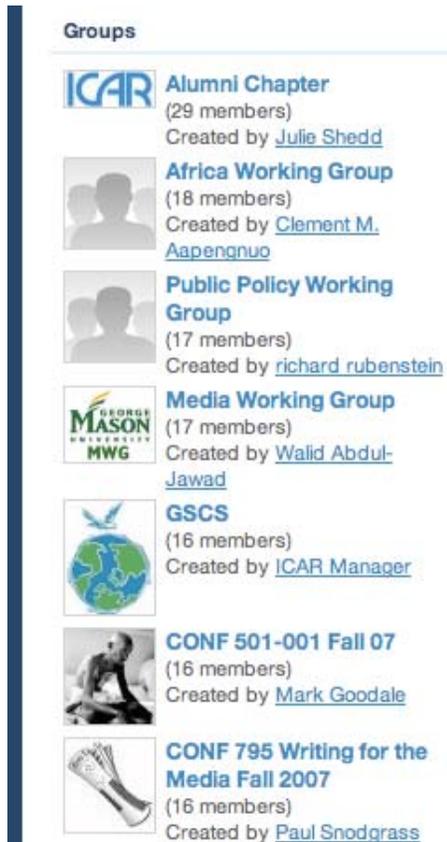
in your area and classmates from previous years.

The ICAR Community Network and Forum hopes to be a digital connection between all of the people, past and present, associated with ICAR who are learning and working in the field or simply want to stay connected. Here are a tally of the total postings so far:

- ICAR Announcements and Upcoming Events (56)
- Discussion (16)
- Course Announcements (3)
- Grants, Scholarships, and Fellowships (47)
- Conferences and Calls for Papers (11)
- External Events (16)
- Housing and Items for Sale Bulletin Board (4)

Says ICAR Masters student and forum user, Vanessa Brake, "As a recent graduate of ICAR I have found the new networking site very useful for keeping in touch with my course mates that have since left the DC area. I have also utilized the network to meet other Alumni, to plan meetings with ICARites who share my interests, to discuss current issues,

as well as to connect with faculty. I'm glad that I can still be kept in the loop on ICAR's progress and events, even if I'm no longer a student. Its a wonderful way to keep ICAR as a community, and not just another department of a school." ■



initiatives

ICAR'S First Annual Alumni Symposium Hosts Two-Day Conference for 100 Graduates

By Julie Shedd, Director, Student Services and Graduate Admissions, jshedd@gmu.edu

EVENTS

ICAR celebrated its 25th year with an Alumni Symposium gathering over 100 alumni, current students, faculty and staff for two days of panel presentations, discussion and networking. 12 panels brought alumni practice and experience into the spotlight on topics such as teaching, civic planning, public policy, career development, water conflict and using collaborative technologies. Current ICAR faculty moderated each panel made up of two to four alumni or current students sharing expertise and sparking discussion.

This year's symposium was the first time ICAR had hosted such an event, bringing together alumni of all the different degree programs. After 25 years of excellence in teaching, the ICAR alumni community has grown to over 500 alumni, including graduates from the Master's, Doctoral,



[Pictured left to right] ICAR Professor Susan Allen Nan (ICAR M.S. '95) moderates the Mediating and Negotiating panel at the First Annual Alumni Symposium with panelists Mary Hardiman (M.S. '90) and Bruce Engelbert (M.S. '95).

Undergraduate, and Graduate Certificate Programs. Video of the different panels will be edited and put on the ICAR Community forum in the coming months so alumni who were not able to attend the symposium can here what was said.

The Security and Intelligence panel exemplified the longevity of ICAR's programs. Panelist, Suzanne Devlin was a member of ICAR's first cohort, graduating in 1985. Lynn Kunkle was a Master's student in the mid-90's and Tim Adgent represented the 2007 graduating class. These panelists were able to touch on issues and concerns that correspond with the needs of all alumni, from the first to graduate to the most recent.

ICAR's activities and dedication to the local community came out in the Civic and Community Planning panels and the DC

Issues panels with presenters Juliana Birkhoff, Bill Potapchuk, and Gary Willoughby sharing their experiences of working on local community and economic development issues ranging from transportation policy to education reform.

The first day of the symposium coincided with ICAR's annual Welcome Dinner. A record crowd of over 130 new and returning students, faculty, alumni, staff and friends of ICAR packed Hazel Hall's atrium for an evening of scholarship presentations, welcome addresses, and networking. Dr. Jamie Price, Director of the Shrive Center housed at ICAR was the key note speaker.

Two new scholarships were inaugurated this year, the Faculty Scholarship represents the

Continued on Page 8

Upcoming ICAR Community Events

For more info on events, email jlock1@gmu.edu.

October 14-17: Partnering for Peace: Transatlantic Concepts for Conflict Resolution in Public Policy

October 22: Lynch Lecture, Guest Speaker Lee Hamilton
6:00-9:00 pm, National Press Club
RSVP: lynch@gmu.edu

October 27: Development Career Intensive
10:00-4:00 pm, Truland Bldg, Room 555

November 8: Open House
6:00-9:00 pm, Truland Bldg, Room 555

November 17: Security Career Intensive
10:00-4:00 p.m., Truland Bldg, Room 555

Register: icarjob@gmu.edu

Displacement, Identity and Violence

ICAR News Network: 9/17/07
By Ali Erol, ICAR Cert. Student

As Iraq grows more violent, there is less attention paid to how the ongoing violence affects how people live, eat, sleep and even breathe. There are discussions about allocating the resources, remapping the borders, making new borders between sectarian groups, displacing people, putting troops here and training Iraqis there, giving money to these groups and cutting money from those and so on. These tactics were employed since the beginning of the war and it is apparent now that they were not so successful. In fact, there are alternative ways to soften the conflict in Iraq without perpetuating sectarian violence.

The *New York Times* article by Sabrina Tavernise [September 17, 2007] covers the rather untouched fields of the Iraq conflict. One can conclude that dividing an entire country neighborhood by neighborhood not only causes trauma in the population, it also makes people associate with a sectarian/ethnic identity they regarded little before. Ripping Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds from their homes and giving them new neighborhoods to live only increases the lack of communication between groups and thus augments a more radical in-group bonding and a more radical out-group hatred. This will only result in an unfortunate but predictable increase of violence.

A perfect example of the magnitude of violence that can result from separating and displacing people was found not so long ago in Rwanda. To understand how similar the conditions in Iraq are to Rwanda, one needs only to read Tavernise's stories about people being killed by their neighbors and the hatred generated by such events. The violence in Iraq has already cost tens of

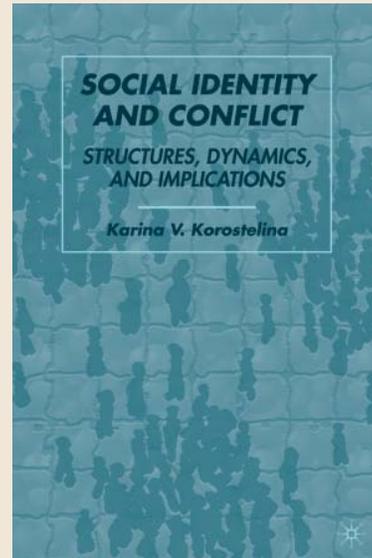
New Books*

Social Identity and Conflict Structures, Dynamics, and Implications

Palgrave Macmillan Press
Karina V. Korostelina, ICAR Professor

Book Description

This book presents the conception of a system of social identities, including the system's structure, development and dynamics, and explores the influence of cultural dimensions and identity salience on attitudes, behavior, and the structures of consciousness. The "Four C" model of identity-based conflicts provides fresh opportunities for analyses of the role of identity in conflicts and violence. .



thousands of lives while affecting, both physically and psychologically, many more in Iraq and the US. As anger and hatred accumulates in displaced communities, the magnitude of the violence may grow bigger as time passes.

What, then, can be done, in order to sooth the trauma and slow down this process of increasing violence? People need to be reminded that they are facing or opposing those who used to be their neighbors, friends, classmates and teammates. The worst way to organize this kind of a reminder, however, is to bring people together without any catalyst and expect them to communicate verbally. Perhaps, starting on a grassroots level, connecting people through schools, sports and through other means of social exchange can offer an eventual healing process.

In *Bloodlines*, Vamik Volkan gives an account of how an Egyptian and an Israeli confronted each other during a meeting. When the Israeli psychiatrist mentioned to the Egyptian historian that she was scared, the historian did not believe that an Israeli could harbor the same emotions, or could tolerate sharing a sense of victimhood (Volkan, 1997). This surfaces the

known paradigm of dehumanizing and humanizing the other. But rather than a cliché response to severe hatred and violence among groups, this paradigm tells us how important it is to know that one can share certain feelings with an out-group, such as victimhood, fear, glory and accomplishment. Social activities thus can serve as a catalyst for the sharing of these kinds of feelings and perhaps heal deep scars and reduce ongoing violence.. ■

Recent ICAR Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor

Biofuels are Helpful but no Panacea for Relieving America's Dependence on Oil

By Michael Shank, ICAR Ph.D. Student, and Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD) and Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)
The Hill, September 27, 2007

Congo Must be Wary of Chinese Deals

By Nnena Ahukannah, ICAR Masters. Student
Financial Times, September 25, 2007

Pioneers Can Secure Our Future

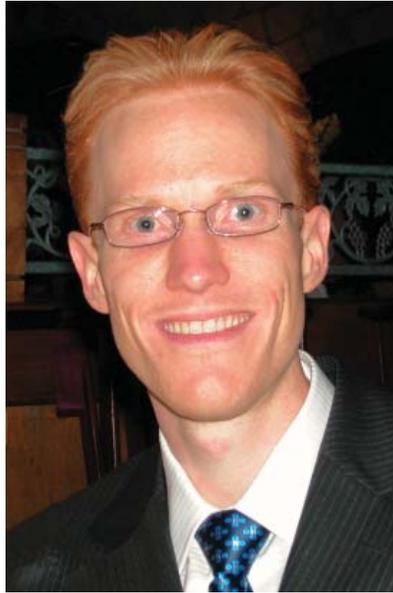
By Michael Shank, ICAR Ph.D. Student, and Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD)
Richmond Times-Dispatch, September 13, 2007

The U.S., India and the Elusive 123 Deal

By Saira Yamin, ICAR Ph.D. Student
Foreign Policy in Focus, September 7, 2007 ■

Ivan Sascha Sheehan Maneshka Eliatamby

Ivan Sascha Sheehan, a visiting professor at ICAR and a recent PhD graduate of the institute, is spotlighted this month for his groundbreaking work in evaluating the effectiveness of U.S. counterterrorism strategies. Despite the proliferation of terrorism and counterterrorism literature, few ana-



lysts, have conducted quantitative research to understand the impact and efficacy of counterterrorism strategies. Dr. Sheehan is among the few.

Last month, testifying in the Senate Russell Building for congressional staff, Sheehan highlighted the conclusions from his forthcoming book by Cambria Press: *When Terrorism and Counterterrorism Clash: The War on Terror and the Transformation of Terrorist Activity*.

In the book (publish date: 11/2007), Sheehan's analysis begins by studying events from the War on Terror including the war in Afghanistan, the Iraqi offensive, the capture of Saddam Hussein, and the making

public of Iraqi prison photos at Abu Ghraib, and the subsequent correlation they have with the intensity, lethality, and regularity of global terrorism. Sheehan investigates this "cause and effect" relationship by using statistical analysis of longitudinal data which gives strong quantitative legitimacy to his claims. The final product is important in not only providing the largest ever cataloguing and organization of terrorism over the past decade (1992-2004) but also because of its implications for US foreign policy.

Additionally, Sheehan teaches a three-credit course on counterterrorism at ICAR, scheduled for the winter and summer sessions. Says Sheehan of the class, "It's my belief that the multi-disciplinarity of our field provides us remarkable leverage to facilitate discussions between individuals with diverse perspectives and unique expertise, dialogue that might not otherwise ever occur. As an emerging field we're fortunate not to be constrained by the dogmas and paradigms of some more traditional disciplines. This allows us to "think outside the box" and develop new and innovative solutions to urgent problems that require attention." ■

"The multi-disciplinarity of our field provides us remarkable leverage to facilitate discussions between individuals with diverse perspectives and unique expertise, dialogue that might not otherwise even occur. As an emerging field we're fortunate not to be constrained by dogmas and paradigms of some more traditional disciplines."

—IVAN SASCHA SHEEHAN

This month, ICAR puts the spotlight on one of our Ph.D. students, Maneshka Eliatamby.

Born in Sri Lanka, Maneshka was faced with an identity conflict growing up with parents of different ethnic backgrounds; her father, Tamil and her mother, Singhalese. Her awareness of war came at the early age of just 4 years in learning about the war between the Sri Lankan Government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).



Upon arriving at ICAR, one of the first faculty members she met was Dr. Dennis Sandole. Maneshka states that Dr. Sandole "shaped my thinking here [at ICAR]" in that they both share similar interests in understanding the root causes of terrorism.

As a Masters student at ICAR, she pursued her interest of understanding terrorism- especially female terrorists and women who go from being the

victim to the victimizer. "This idea of a female terrorist goes against the stereotypical view of a woman only being the peacemaker" states Maneshka. Her studies and research is geared towards the understanding female involvement in collective violence by using the situation in Sri Lanka.

Active in the student community, Maneshka is a founder of the Conflict and Gender Working Group and a member of both the Terrorism Working

Group and the South and South East Asia Working Group.

Maneshka's contributions to the ICAR community and the field of conflict resolution have impressed both her colleges and faculty. Now an ICAR PhD student, Maneshka continues her research in understanding the root causes of terrorism. "I want to teach and also be practicing in the field. I like the idea of bringing experience to the classroom- I don't think I would be a good teacher without the practical experience". ■

Rethink Needed in Virginia Mental Health Services

Continued from page 1

convene a series of stakeholder dialogues to identify what is broken and suggest it can be fixed.

Persons with mental illness, family members, police, magistrates, professional service providers and hospital staff—70 in total—participated in a series of meetings and verified that systemic changes need to be made at the local and state levels beginning with clarifying current legal language regarding whether or not an individual poses “imminent danger” to himself or the community. If so, he can be involuntarily committed to a hospital (report available on ICAR Web site: <http://icar.gmu.edu>).

Participants unanimously said that individuals with mental illness avoid commitment at all costs, as Cho did sixteen months prior to the shootings when he was ordered by a judge to receive involuntary commitment. Involuntary commitment is too traumatic and too demeaning, and families, while often the first to recognize signs of deterioration, cannot commit their adult children. The process reacts to a worse-case scenario while prevention-oriented processes are ignored. Currently, there is no early-warning system that helps detect mental illness crises. Priority is given to emergency response—not emergency prevention. Cho’s lack of treatment is an excellent example of this poor prioritization. There was no space in the system for Cho because until the shootings, there was no crisis point.

Participants at our dialogues also agreed on a number of other proposed changes. Legislators must revise the definition, criteria, and scope of law governing the involuntary admissions process so that it addresses all stakeholder concerns, especially the family members. There needs to be a continuum of intervention strategies available and offered earlier, including a variety of outpatient treatment options. While CSB professionals and hospital providers stand ready to offer more comprehensive services, funding remains an obstacle. Adequate and affordable legal support for family

members to ensure the overall welfare of the individual is also needed. Equipped with legal advocacy, the individual may be more inclined to enter the commitment process willingly. Without it, youth like Cho will stay far away.

Guaranteeing public safety and preventing, detecting, and responding to mental illness are no easy tasks. Initiatives have been underway since 2005 to reconsider the laws regarding involuntary commitment, favoring and supporting voluntary treatment in the community or at a hospital. All that is needed is the commitment and

resources to support these changes.

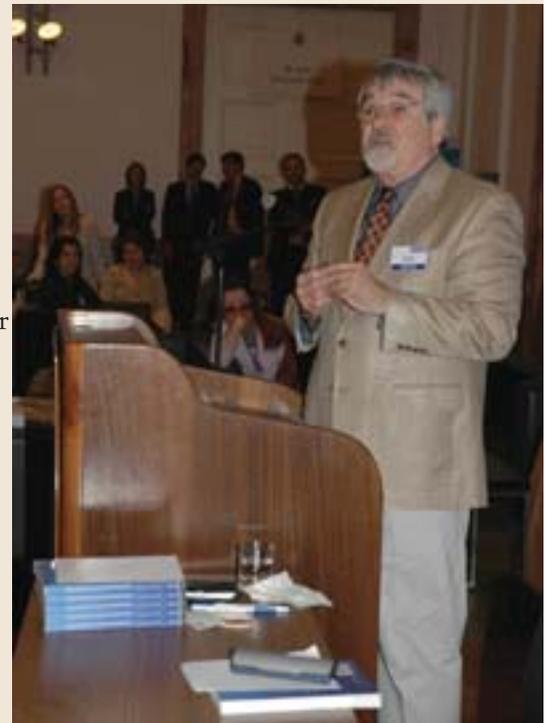
Efforts are currently underway to dedicate space in Norris Hall—the “ground zero” of Virginia Tech—as a Center devoted to “the study of international peace and crime prevention.” Of course there is a need in our troubled world to educate people about conflict and alternatives to violence. This is an excellent gesture to the family and loved ones of those who lost their lives. But there must also be processes that detect early warning signals and provide access to alternative psychological services to involuntary commitment. Then we are more likely to prevent another Cho-like

ICAR Faculty Book Presentation: US Ambassador to OSCE

On Thursday, July 5, 2007, ICAR Professor Dennis J.D. Sandole made a presentation on his new book, *Peace and Security in the Postmodern World: The OSCE and Conflict Resolution*, at a reception held in his honor by Ambassador Julie Finley, Head of the U.S. Delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The event took place at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna, Austria, site of negotiations and other meetings of the 56-country OSCE, the world’s most comprehensive regional security organization which helped facilitate the ending of the Cold War.

“In his book, Dr. Sandole analyzes responses to questions he put to representatives of the various delegations in 1993, 1997, 1999, and 2004, on (a) the causes of the genocidal wars in former Yugoslavia during the 1990s; (b) lessons learned from those wars and how the international community did or did not respond to them; and (c) how to redesign peace and security in Europe to ensure that such wars -- with their implications for global terrorism -- never happened again.

“In his comments prior to presenting signed copies of the book to each delegation and members of the OSCE Secretariat, Dr. Sandole mentioned that the books were made available by a grant provided by the Office of the Provost of George Mason University Dr. Peter Stearns.” ■





Celebrating 25 Years of Pioneering Theory, Research, and Practice at ICAR

For 25 years, our faculty, students and alumni have addressed deep-rooted conflicts wherever they occur — in metropolitan Washington D.C., across the United States, and on the international stage. We have been leaders in the field since our founding: ICAR was one of the first groundbreaking “Theory Centers” funded by the Hewlett Foundation. We created the world’s first Master of Science and doctorate in conflict resolution, and we recently expanded our programs to serve undergraduate students and mid-career professionals. ■

ICAR Alumni Symposium

Continued from page 4

commitment of ICAR faculty to continued fund raising to support ICAR students.

The Alumni Scholarship stemmed from the many contributions made by ICAR alumni to the student scholarship fund.

Both scholarships were awarded to students with excellent academic records and strong potential for contribution to the ICAR and Alumni communities. Additionally, three ICAR staff members, Erin Ogilvie, Jenny Lock and Deanna Yuille were awarded Achievement



ICAR Associate Director Kevin Avruch offering remarks at Welcome Dinner.



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