

Barack Obama: A Conflict Resolution Friendly White House?

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

Since his election and inauguration, it has been clear that Barack Obama, represents many things to many people, not only in the U.S., but worldwide as well. I experienced his global appeal when I was in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and a Muslim Tamil Indian, who considers himself a member of Malaysia's minority population, confided that he was exhilarated by Obama's empowering maxim: "Yes, we can!"



Barack Obama taking the Oath of Office. Photo: Wikimedia.

Another dimension of Mr. Obama's significance derives from the combined influence of his Kenyan Muslim father; his Anglo Christian mother from Kansas; his childhood spent in Hawaii and Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation; and his work as a community organizer

on Chicago's South Side. He has an undergraduate degree from Columbia and a law degree from Harvard, where he served as the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review. Most notably, after delivering a rousing keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention in 2004, he came out of nowhere to persuade Americans to elect him as the nation's first African-American President!

The significance of Obama's background, which resonates with conflict resolution theorists and practitioners, is that he is sensitive to the observation

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ICAR, ELI Partner for Dialogue

By Leila Peterson, ICAR Adjunct Professor, lpetersh@gmu.edu

The ICAR Undergraduate Program actively seeks ways to reach out across the George Mason community. Last fall, the Undergraduate Program collaborated with the English Language Institute (ELI) to create an experiential learning opportunity in cross-cultural communication and dialogue. CONF 202 Dialogue and Difference combined with ELI 089 Dialogue with Americans to offer a joint course focused on dialogue about the U.S. election and identity politics.

Students from the two classes represented 15 different countries, with the majority of students from Korea, the United States, Sudan, China, Saudi Arabia, and Vietnam. The majors and areas of academic study represented in the class were equally diverse. "The diversity among the students challenged us all to examine our fundamental assumptions about government, politics, and democracy," said Leila Peterson, ICAR Adjunct Professor.

The course began with a dialogue workshop designed to build trust and develop individual communication skills such as listening, identifying assumptions, and asking questions. The class then moved to a series of eight dialogues on topics relevant to the election, including immigration, the role of religion in government, the relationship of the West and Muslim world, and race, ethnicity, and nationalism. Student groups designed and led each dialogue, giving them the opportunity to experiment with different formats and techniques. Although designed to maximize the time the students spent learning together, the course also allowed opportunities for the two groups of students to reflect on their experiences separately.



Dialogue course participants. Photo: Michael Smith.

ELI has provided English language instruction at GMU since 1981 and also works with students to develop academic skills and cultural awareness. "It was a natural fit. This gave my students the opportunity to interact with GMU students, learn about the U.S. from Americans, and get a sense of what an academic class entails," said Michael Smith, ELI instructor. "And, the CONF 202 students didn't just learn about conflict resolution theory – they got to experience it," added Peterson. Both departments are excited about continuing the partnership between ICAR and ELI.

The students shared their perspectives on the experience during the final class. One student noted, "I could understand other students from other countries. Their thoughts, customs, behaviors; some things were very similar to mine, but others were totally different. We have seen the same event, but our viewpoints were various. I learned that I had to escape from bias when I saw or heard news. I also learned the way to dialogue with another people. Although I have opposite opinion, I have to respect the other people's opinion. Before speaking, listen." ■

Michael Shank Heads for the Hill

By Julie Shedd, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate and Associate Director for Administration, jshedd@gmu.edu



Michael Shank, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate.
Photo: ICAR.

Michael Shank, ICAR's Communications Director, bid farewell to the Institute to pursue a new challenge as the Communications Director for U.S. Representative Mike Honda from California. During Michael's tenure at ICAR the institute made giant leaps forward in media presence and communications savvy. Among his many accomplishments, Michael is responsible for developing the ICAR News Network - ICAR's online news and analysis portal. Michael designed, developed, and hosted Analyze This - ICAR's weekly radio and online broadcast. These initiatives have helped expand ICAR's reach, offering analysis on current conflicts that is accessible around the world. Michael also developed and published the ICAR Newsletter and assisted faculty, students, and staff with writing and publishing Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor in regional, national, and international newspapers. But with all the visible accomplishments in print, on the web, and in video, Michael's biggest accomplishment was building confidence among ICAR's faculty, staff, and students in our capability to reach the larger world with ICAR's message. We wish Michael well with his new undertaking and know he will continue to open doors for the ICAR Community. ■

ICAR APT Team Off to Morocco

M.S. and Ph.D Students Seek to Apply Theory to Practice

By Kathryn P. Roberts, ICAR M.S. Student, kr robertm@gmu.edu

As one of three options for graduation, ICAR M.S. students have the chance to participate in the Applied Practice and Theory (APT) program. Under the guidance and mentorship of a faculty member, this six-credit capstone aims to provide students with real-world application of the theories learned in the classroom.

The Applied Practice and Theory program was developed in 1992 to create an opportunity for students to practice in the Conflict Resolution field with a safety net – a faculty member to counsel and mentor them as they face realistic conflicts in the community they are working in. Over the subsequent 17 years of APT team projects, a need was voiced for a similar program for students interested in comprehensive and long-term research projects.

In an effort to provide different APT opportunities that met the broad range of student interests, Karina Korostelina was asked to mentor a research focused APT team. In the years since, she has worked with groups engaging conflicts in Chiapas, Mexico – a trip made memorable by a meeting with a Zapatista leader in the middle of the rainforest – as well as projects at the International Criminal Court, and justice and peacebuilding for the United Nations.

Led by Korostelina, the current research team, comprised of eight students – 3 Ph.D. students and 5 Master's students – is focusing on the impact of modernization on Islamic Radicalization in Morocco. Unlike most other APTs, the group met once a week in an ICAR classroom in preparation for their trip to Morocco, where they will meet with 20 to 30 international and local NGO leaders, academics and religious leaders. Essentially, they spent the last year developing their research knowledge base in order to conduct these interviews.

All eight students involved in this project had little to no research background when they met for the first time. Korostelina prides herself on teaching her students the basics of research design, which she believes, is fundamental to developing the Conflict Resolution field. In her words, she is “growing a new generation of researchers.” By participating in a research APT program, she believes students will develop the skills necessary for jobs in analytical fields post-graduation.

M.S. student Xanthie Mangum plans to use the tools she has learned in this APT program to work in the Conflict Resolution field after she



Photos: Paul Snodgrass.

earns a Ph.D. – preferably as an overseas investigator for the federal government. She sees this program as a chance to gain research tools, as well as conflict resolution practice and theory in one place.

The research-based APT group provides research tools to each student through practical experience: “Action research is conditional and learned,” said M.S. student and Fulbright grantee Aneela Shamshad. She registered for the APT class in order to internalize research methods and designs through interactions with her fellow group members, and to gain interviewing experience onsite in Morocco this spring.

Jamila Mammadova, also an M.S. student, plans to graduate this spring and is simultaneously writing her thesis on a different topic. The tools she has gained throughout the year have helped her develop her own thesis. The research APT group appealed to her for the travel opportunity, as well as the field application of research.

For the three Ph.D. students in the program, these credits are not required for their curriculum. One of those students, Clement Aapengnuo, wanted the practical experience more than the general credits he is earning toward his doctorate. Ph.D. student Suliman Giddo agrees, “At work, when you make mistakes, you get fired.” In the APT program, mistakes turn into opportunities for learning.

The Morocco APT team is comprised of ICAR students: Clement Aapengnuo, Fatima Hadji, Xanthie Mangum, Jamila Mammadova, Ali Erol, Erica Soren, Suliman Giddo, and Aneela Shamshad. ■



initiatives

Point of View Hosts Georgia, South Ossetia Peacebuilders

By Susan Allen Nan, Ph.D., ICAR Faculty, snan@gmu.edu

Events

George Mason University's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution hosted South Ossetian and Georgian civil society-based peacebuilders from December 16-19 at Point of View, the University's conflict resolution retreat facility at Mason Neck, VA. Susan Allen Nan, Assistant Professor of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University, planned the session and facilitated with Dr. Paula Garb and Laura Olsen. The meeting represents one of the first focused track two or citizen diplomacy initiatives since the August war disrupted Georgian-South Ossetian relations.

The individuals in this track two meeting participated in their own personal capacity. During the meeting, they discussed the implications of the August war in rebuilding peace and security in the region, as well as areas where civil society initiatives could play a constructive part in improving relations. These exploratory discussions generated creative ideas for civil society contributions to the overall peace process. "The participants persevered through difficult conversations and made plans for

working together to identify missing persons, facilitate dialogues between other Georgians and South Ossetians, protect human rights in the conflict zone, and open communication between their societies," said Nan. "I am really grateful for USAID funding the Georgian participants' travel to the dialogue, Planethood Foundation covering workshop expenses, broad university support, and the use of Point of View for these discussions." ■



ICAR professor Susan Allen Nan with participants.
Photo: Adrienne Struss.

Upcoming ICAR Community Events

For more info on events, email Erica Soren, esoren@gmu.edu

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Guest Speaker: Sally Engle Merry, NYU
Indicators, Human Rights, and Global Governance

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Truland Building, 555

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Guest Speaker: David Shasha
Contested Histories & Disembodied Voices: How to Speak of the Arab Jew
7:00 pm, Truland Building, 555

Friday, March 27, 2009

Civilian Devastation in War Conference
8:00 am - 6:30 pm, Original Building, 329

Saturday, April 4, 2009

Point of View Watershed Cleanup
9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Point of View in Lorton, VA

Thursday, April 16, 2009

Guest Speaker: Randa Slim
Assessing Democratization Efforts in Iraq
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm, Truland Building, 555

<http://icar.gmu.edu/events.htm>

Ambassador Hill Gives CR Lecture

By Susan Allen Nan, Ph.D., ICAR Faculty, snan@gmu.edu

On Monday, February 9, Ambassador William Hill presented a public lecture on "The OSCE and Moldovan-Transdnistrian Conflict Resolution" in the Johnson Center Cinema. This lecture followed a discussion with the class CONF 495 Organizations and Actors in the Conflict Field.

Ambassador Hill is a Wilson Center Public Policy Scholar and served two terms as the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, where he was charged with the negotiation of a political settlement to the Transdnistrian conflict and facilitation of the withdrawal of Russian forces, arms, and ammunition from Moldova. When the war erupted over South Ossetia in August, pitting Georgian, South Ossetian, and Russian military forces against each other in a five-day war, many raised questions about the prospects for settling the similarly structured post-Soviet Transdnistrian conflict. Moldova claims Transdnistria as part of Moldova, but Transdnistria asserts independence. This conflict continues as a frozen conflict today. ■



Ambassador Hill. Photo: Christy Larsen.

Zones of Peace in the South Caucasus

By Susan Allen Nan, ICAR Faculty, Irakli Kakabadze, ICAR M.S. Alumni, Arsen Kharatyan, Jamila Mammadova, ICAR M.S. Student, and Ekaterina Romanova, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate

Published 2/26/09 in Contact

At a recent symposium held at George Mason University, peacebuilders based in Baku, Tbilisi, Yerevan, Moscow, and Washington D.C. considered the concept of Zones of Peace.

While Georgian Minister for Reintegration Temuri Yakobashvili's announcement this week of the Georgian initiative to declare Abkhazia a weapon-free zone was met with disdain by Russia and Abkhazia, there is merit to a much broader consideration of Zones of Peace. Beyond simply banning weapons, Zones of Peace are geographic areas where violence is limited and a culture of peace and tolerance is encouraged. Zones of Peace, already successful elsewhere, present promising prospects for the future of the South Caucasus, particularly if structured so as to be attractive to all involved. For example, if the Georgian government were to work towards making all of Georgia – not only Abkhazia-- a weapons-free zone, that idea might find favorable Russian and Abkhaz consideration.

Rather than becoming a battlefield for global power struggles, the Caucasus as a whole could transform into a Zone of Peace, where no military powers would compete and all cultural traditions, religious practices, and languages would be respected. We know transformations are possible; post-World War II European reconciliation giving rise to the E.U. demonstrates radical transformation. Zones of Peace in the South Caucasus are also possible—hopefully without another sixty-year delay.

Zones of Peace have worked to keep villagers in Colombia and the Philippines safe from the violence surrounding their homes, to protect eighty-six communities in a larger Local Zone of Peace in Ecuador, and to safeguard residents along the mountainous Peru-Ecuador border. In an even grander peace initiative, the entire country of Costa Rica relinquished its military forces. Zones of Peace could offer similar benefits in isolated villages, across buffer zones, or regionally throughout the South Caucasus.

There is a history in the Caucasus of markets serving as informal Zones of Peace in the towns of Egret and Sadakhlo, and at the Red Bridge market. While local people from across conflict lines have bought and sold produce, they have also kept communication open between their communities. More of these micro Zones of Peace could facilitate necessary local trade, while simultaneously keeping grassroots communication open between the societies separated by conflict. Legalizing and supporting markets in Zugdidi near the Inguri, near Sadakhlo, the Red Bridge area, and Ergneti would minimize the threat of heroin trade or other illicit activities by allowing appropriate regulation of market

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Recent ICAR Articles, Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor

Washington Also Needs to Change the Way it Engages

By Susan Allen Nan, ICAR Professor
Financial Times, 2/26/09

Why Hamas Wants to Marginalize the PLO

By Rawhi Afaghani, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
Al Arabiya News Channel, 2/25/09

From Open Door to No-Go: Interpreting Iran's Policy Toward Afghan Refugees

By Carrie Chomuk, ICAR M.S. Student
Think Tank, Stimson, 2/23/09

The Ripe Moment for Peace is Over

By Rawhi Afaghani, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
Arab Writers Group Syndicate, 1/29/09

Obama, Change South Asia Policy

By Saira Yamin, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
The Nation, 1/26/09

Time for a New Start on Afghanistan Policy

By Neamat Nojumi, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
Journal Sentinel, 1/24/09

20th Anniversary of UN GA Resolution 43/189: Specific Measures in Favour of Island Developing Countries

By Alfred Farrugia, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
The Malta Independent, 12/20/08

Boost to Small Island Developing States

By Alfred Farrugia, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
Times of Malta, 12/20/08

Media Silent as Indian Muslims Forego Holiday

By Marc Gopin, ICAR Professor
Media For Freedom, 12/17/08

G20 Momentum Could Spur Collective Climate Action

By Dennis Sandole, ICAR Professor
Financial Times, 12/16/08

Fierce Blame Game in Georgia

By Susan Allen Nan, ICAR Professor
The Wall Street Journal, 12/08/08

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In Memoriam

Henry C. Barringer: A Personal Reflection

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



Henry Barringer with Dennis Sandole and Bryant Wedge. Photo: Mason Gazette Archive.

It is with great sadness that we at ICAR report that Henry C. Barringer, co-creator with the late Dr. Bryant Wedge of the “Center for Conflict Resolution,” which eventually became the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, passed away on January 14, 2009, at 88 years of age.

Henry, a retired U.S. Foreign Service Officer, was a delightful, generous individual with great vision for how the United States could be a force for positive peace in the world.

It was this vision that enabled him and Bryant Wedge to work for the creation of a U.S. National Peace Academy in the 1970s and early 1980s, which eventually led to, in addition to the U.S. Institute of Peace, the establishment of CCR/ICAR in 1981.

I am honored to have been associated with Henry and Bryant, as the very first faculty hire of CCR/ICAR in August 1981. In those halcyon days, CCR was located in Fenwick Library on the Fairfax Campus as a part-time operation: Henry and Bryant were co-directors, Mary Lynn Boland was secretary, and I was split between CCR and the Department of Public Affairs, where I taught courses in International Relations. In the background as constant pillars of support were Professors Tom Williams, then Dean of the Graduate School, and Joseph Scimecca, then Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (who eventually succeeded Henry and Bryant as CCR director).

During that time, Henry was indefatigable in his efforts to sustain CCR, including locating well-placed individuals in the community to comprise ICAR’s Advisory Board, providing financial and other support. One member of the Board, Ed Lynch, together with his wife Helen and son Bill, have been very generous to ICAR over the years, including leaving us their beautiful property at Point of View along the Potomac River. It was at Point of View, in fact, where I saw Henry for the last time during an unveiling last year of a portrait of our colleague

Dr. John Burton, with whom I had worked at University College London in England. Henry was instrumental in bringing John to ICAR in the mid-1980s. Henry looked fit and lively and was as charming and sharp as ever!

On a more personal note, Henry’s generosity extended to giving me a lift to and from campus,

since I was without a car during my first year at George Mason University. During those drives, Henry would talk about his time as a young U.S. Army officer at Bletchley Park, England, during World War II, working on cracking the German Enigma code and

later interviewing German prisoners-of-war, and his experiences as a multilingual American diplomat during the Cold War in Burundi, Columbia, Congo, Denmark, Germany, and Greece.

Although Henry passed away shortly before the inauguration of President Barack Obama, I am convinced that he would have been pleased that, finally, we had a president who would embody what CCR/ICAR -- thanks to Henry and Bryant’s salutary efforts -- was trying to create: new generations of peacemakers.

Henry, we will miss you very much! ■

“Henry was a delightful, generous individual with great vision...”

—DENNIS SANDOLE

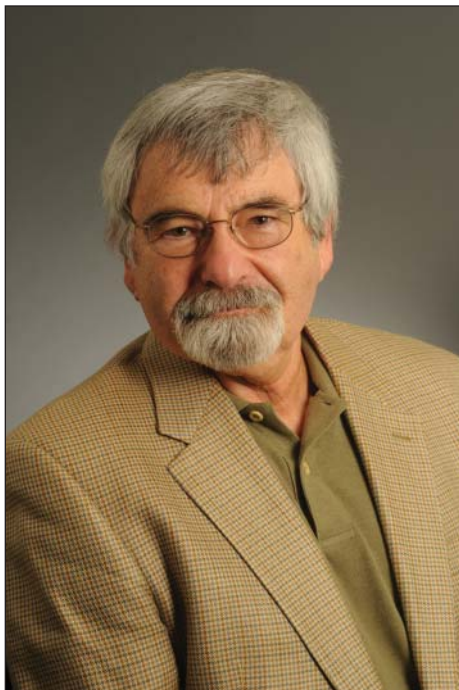


Henry Barringer.

Photo courtesy of William Barringer.

Obama: A Conflict Resolution-Minded Commander in Chief

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Dennis Sandole is a professor of Conflict Resolution at ICAR. Photo: ICAR.

that different people of different backgrounds bring different perspectives. As a community organizer – and now global community organizer par excellence – Mr. Obama has indicated as one of his strengths: “put me in a room with a lot of different people, and by the end of the day, we will have consensus!” Given the perilous state of the world that he has inherited, nothing could be more important.

Chief among his talents is listening respectfully to people who are not accustomed to being listened to: those who have been marginalized, oppressed, and worse – part of the genesis of post-9/11 terrorism. This is evidenced by his inaugural address, and most recently, by his appearance on Al Arabiya, where he made a broad appeal to the Arab and Muslim worlds as someone who has Muslims in his own family. His message is that the United States is ready to work with them, including Iran. Former Senator George J. Mitchell, Obama’s personal emissary to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, has been dispatched to the region with the

charge to listen to all of the parties (with the exception of Hamas).

President Obama’s readiness to work with others at complex problem solving was demonstrated in his article, “Renewing American Leadership,” in the July/Aug 2007 issue of *Foreign Affairs*, and in his first foreign policy speech, “Obama’s Remarks on Iraq and Afghanistan,” (New York Times 7/15/08). His core theme has been bringing people together to achieve consensus in order to solve complex global problems. His calls for appropriate changes of mindset plus the demonstration of effective U.S. leadership within multilateral settings represent significant departures from Washington’s ideologically driven policies of the last eight years.

The primary “outlier” in this otherwise “CR-friendly” portrait of the President is his stated position on the war in Afghanistan, where his draw down of U.S. troops in Iraq correlates to an increase in troop strength in Afghanistan, to deal with the resurrected Taliban insurgency. Associated with this concern is the recent attack on suspected Taliban targets in Pakistan, launched during Mr. Obama’s first week in office, which caused a number of casualties, possibly including children.

These concerns are valid, but if we examine President Obama’s Afghan policy in a larger framework, they may be put to rest. This larger framework is compatible with a conceptual device that I call the “three levels of conflict reality”: (1) Conflict as symptoms; (2) Conflict as underlying fractured relationships that give rise to symptoms; and (3) Conflict as underlying deep-rooted causes and conditions of the fractured relationships that give rise to symptoms.

Mr. Obama’s framework for Afghanistan, which corresponds to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s “three legs to the stool of American foreign policy” -- defense, diplomacy,

and development -- includes (1) more troops (defense) to deal with conflict as symptoms; (2) more diplomacy to deal with fractured relationships which give rise to the symptoms; and (3) more development to deal with the underlying deep-rooted causes and conditions of the fractured relationships.

This reorientation of U.S. policy reflects the sentiments of General Petraeus, whose CENTCOM responsibilities include Afghanistan and Iraq and who co-wrote the U.S. military’s new guidelines on counterinsurgency.

Mr. Obama’s defense-based “surge” into Afghanistan (symptoms) must occur within a more comprehensive framework inclusive of diplomacy (relationships) and development (deep-rooted causes). The balance of the shifting investments and prioritization across these three interrelated components of his foreign policy “stool” will determine whether Mr. Obama’s conflict resolution promise remains intact or comes under significant challenge. ■

“Chief among his talents is listening to people who are not accustomed to being listened to.”

—DENNIS SANDOLE

Recent ICAR Articles, Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor

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There is Hope for India and Pakistan

By Saira Yamin, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
The Christian Science Monitor, 12/04/08

Pakistan's Fragile State

By Saira Yamin, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
International Herald Tribune, 12/04/08

Obama Shouldn't Transfer Bush's Iraq Policy to Afghanistan

By Michael Shank, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate and
Shukria Dellawar, ICAR M.S. Student
The Guardian, 12/03/08

16th OSCE Ministerial Council Needs to Look at Cyprus

By Alfred Farrugia, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
Journal Sentinel, 12/01/08

Student Opinion

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activities.

Larger buffer zones already established along the lines of conflict could also become Zones of Peace. Instead of resounding with daily sniper fire, these spaces could become truly demilitarized zones. Unarmed military observers or others invited by the local community could patrol such security zones to prevent illegal activities and protect their demilitarized character.

An even more ambitious regional Zone of Peace would remove military forces from the whole South Caucasus, allowing economic interests to flourish and a culture of peace to develop. With local police curbing crime, the people in the zone would stop allocating precious resources to fight debilitating wars, and development would surge with more open market access. In the absence of the threat of war, travel between the conflict zones would be restored, and a longer-term conversation on settling political differences without the use of force could develop. Only a stable Zone of Peace, and much time, will make real reconciliation possible.

The peace within the European Union was not built overnight. It emerged from the ashes of World War II when a few individuals envisioned the possibility of cooperation.

They started with coal and steel, and grew into more multifaceted cooperation.

The South Caucasus, too, could be dramatically different in time. Zones of Peace could start small with markets along the conflict lines, then build towards whole buffer zones, and eventually include broader regional arrangements. Gradually building Zones of Peace will steer the Caucasus away from a future of ongoing geopolitical struggle and violent conflict, and instead toward one of interethnic and interreligious coexistence.

The Georgian initiative for a weapons-free Abkhazia is only one version of a Zone of Peace. In this tense post-war period, other structures including parallel demilitarization on all sides would be more widely attractive to all parties. Both small and large Zones of Peace can only be built cooperatively, when all parties willingly giving up the option of resorting to violence. The radical transformation from a war-torn region to a beacon of peace will require courageous risks. Are we willing to take risks today so that, in two or three generations, coexistence in the Caucasus will be as obvious as the E.U.'s post-World War II integration is today? ■



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Al Jazeera Forum: "Power, Media, and the Middle East"

By Solon Simmons, Ph.D., ICAR Faculty, ssimmon5@gmu.edu

When one thinks of a gathering of representatives of a satellite news channel, it is not common to imagine a heady academic debate about the role that media plays in the structure of power relations. But this is what made the March forum, hosted by Al Jazeera, so strange and exciting; as academics, political leaders and broadcasters gathered to imagine the ways in which the world is



Al Jazeera's Doha Newsroom. Photo: Wikimedia.

changing and to consider what roles opinion makers will play in bringing those changes about. It is worth thinking seriously about these issues and what the conflict analysis and resolution perspective has to offer the debate—all the more since such a perspective was generally absent from the proceedings.

The goal of the fourth annual forum entitled,

"Power, Media, and the Middle East," was to host a mix of journalists, analysts, and academics to discuss a provocative array of topics. The panels were held in a dazzling theater at the Doha Sheraton, festooned with technology, draped with blue-lighted cloth, and piping music reminiscent of Carmina Burana, just under the level of direct experience. The Gothic framework seemed appropriate in a part of the world where history appears as relevant today as does the news.

The speakers were an impressive mix,

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CRDC Leads at ALLMEP Summit

By Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution Staff, crdc@gmu.edu

On March 19, 2009, two weeks after the Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution co-hosted a summit launching the idea of a \$200 million annual fund for Israeli-Palestinian peacebuilding organizations, the International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace (IFFIPP) Authorization Act of 2009 (H.R. 1065) was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. The introduction of the Bill was the result of the Alliance for Middle East Peace Summit, which convened on March 4th, at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C., to consider the creation of the International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

The concept of the fund was borrowed from the very successful International Fund for Ireland (IFI), which has funneled \$1.6 billion into Ireland's civil society since its inception in 1986. The hope is that this public-private, multi-national fund, which is seen as an essential component of a holistic, long-term, and sustainable approach to conflict resolution in the Middle East, will deploy the resources and expertise necessary to grow peacebuilding efforts to a level where they have a chance of competing with the myriad violent and unjust alternatives available in the region.

ICAR second year Master's student, and newly appointed CRDC Managing Director, Scott Cooper, was part of the 10 member planning committee that designed the ALLMEP Summit. He facilitated a call in November 2008, which established the core structure for the Summit. With guidance from CRDC Director, Marc Gopin, and invaluable support from CRDC GRA and first year Master's student, Mutsuko Sugita, CRDC Senior Research Associate, Aziz Abu Sarah, and a dedicated group of ALLMEP volunteers, the next five months were spent coordinating the event.

The primary objective of the Summit was to



CRDC's Gopin, Cooper, and Abu Sarah in conversation with IFFIPP Fund stakeholders including Ambassadors from Morocco, Jordan, the PLO, and Director of IFI. Photo: ALLMEP.

“develop and build support for legislation authorizing the creation of the International Fund by governments worldwide.” During the Summit, 75 meetings were conducted on Capitol Hill, advocating the creation of the IFFIPP. In addition, Marc Gopin and Scott Cooper participated in a closed-door, ambassador-level meeting between ALLMEP leaders and chief Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and Moroccan diplomats to discuss the proposed fund. At one point during the conference, the Director General of the IFI, Alexander Smith, spoke poignantly of his hope for Middle East peace based on the successful Irish experience.

The purpose of H.R. 1065 is “to seek the establishment of and contributions to an International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, and for other purposes.” To that end, the bill allocates \$50 million annually for Fiscal Years 2010 through 2014, as part of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. CRDC encourages the ICAR community to support the Bill by contacting their legislators. For more information or to get involved in the project, contact CRDC. ■

ICAR Faculty and Adjuncts Gather for Joint Meeting

By Saira Yamin, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate, ICAR Adjunct Professor, syamin1@gmu.edu

A spirit of camaraderie pervaded the ICAR faculty meeting held on February 6, 2009, in the Truland Building. The joint meeting, representing both the regular and adjunct faculty, was the first such initiative organized to strengthen cohesion amongst the two branches of the teaching staff. Faculty members had an opportunity to mingle and exchange ideas with many of their colleagues over a light lunch. Subsequently, a round of formal introductions took place, and all present were invited to share their views. The gathering acknowledged ICAR's adjunct faculty as a valuable asset to the academic program, as their contributions to both the graduate and undergraduate programs were noted. A suggestion to have an adjunct faculty representative on the Faculty Board was welcomed by all. Members of the adjunct faculty shared stories of successful coordination with ICAR's regular faculty, while others expressed the desire to see more avenues of communication opened to promote a greater sense of community at ICAR. The meeting marked a renewed commitment by ICAR's teaching faculty to communicate, coordinate, and collaborate in their efforts. ■

ICAR's Drucie French Cumbie Fellows

Ph.D. Students Working Together "To Get There"

By Tetsushi Ogata, ICAR Ph.D. Student, togata@gmu.edu

The Drucie French Cumbie Chair was awarded to Dr. Andrea Bartoli in 2007, when he transitioned to ICAR from Columbia University where he was Founding Director of the Center for International Conflict Resolution (CICR). In his inaugural Cumbie Lecture at ICAR, Dr. Bartoli made his vision explicit:

"The Drucie French Cumbie Chair is the perfect environment for the growth of integration of theory and practice that will develop the field of conflict resolution further. Located at ICAR, the preeminent center of research in the field, the Chair has been served by a wonderful colleague, Chris Mitchell. I am honored to be working in this capacity and contributing to the study and practice of peacemaking."

"How can we get there?" I have been privileged to work with Dr. Bartoli as his graduate research assistant since he arrived at ICAR. He asks this question all the time. Not necessarily to me, but mostly to himself. In fact, he repeats it so often, with his wonderful Italian accent, that many readers may have heard him ask it.

Dr. Bartoli recognizes that the conversation to position (or reposition) ICAR as a leading force in the field of Conflict Resolution must be expansive, rigorous, and inclusive. To that end, we often speak about the need to integrate research, theory, teaching, and practice.

Dr. Bartoli understands that in order to *get there*, ICAR needs to foster a fertile environment for new and talented researchers to grow in the field. He sees that the source of ICAR's development in the present actually lies in cultivating the future. This understanding led to the formation of the inaugural group of Drucie French Cumbie Fellows, including Ph.D. students: Clement Aapengnuo, Maneshka Eliatamby, Vandy Kanyako, Martha Mutisi, Tetsushi Ogata, and Molly Tepper.

The creation of a group of Ph.D. students who not only think critically based on the foundational values that ICAR espouses, but also act as ICAR—or act in concert with one another as they represent ICAR at conferences and meetings—networking with scholars and professionals and bringing the fruits of that experience back to the Institute for further consideration, advances the goal of *getting there*. Through the



From left to right: Molly Tepper, Martha Mutisi, Andrea Bartoli, Tetsushi Ogata, and Vandy Kanyaku (not pictured: Maneshka Eliatamby and Clement Aapengnuo). Photo: ICAR.

collaborative work of the Cumbie Fellows, not just individual ICAR students, but ICAR as an institution can be *present* in the room, and it can be there with institutional intentionality.

The Cumbie Fellows are currently working with ICAR's faculty to compile a list of their scholarly accomplishments in 2008. The list will appear in GMU's "Celebration of Achievement," an annual publication cataloging each department's academic accomplishments. Through

this project, students are partnering with the faculty, working as one institution. Whether this is "Italian style" or "ICAR style," the underlying idea warrants serious attention. The work of the Cumbie Fellows is stimulating an environment that fosters a

broad, rigorous, and inclusive culture of conversation, collaboration, and exchange at ICAR. Possibilities abound as to what Cumbie Fellows can and will do in the future.

Although the initial group of Cumbie Fellows was formed spontaneously in order to jump-start the project, Drucie French Cumbie Fellowships are open to all currently enrolled Ph.D. students. The term of the Fellowship is variable, and applications may be submitted to the Chair throughout the year. It is Dr. Bartoli's hope that the Cumbie Fellows will continue to serve as a conduit of communication and facilitation at ICAR, blazing pathways for *getting there*—to ICAR's new era. ■

"The Cumbie Fellows will continue to serve as a conduit of communication and facilitation at ICAR."

—TETSUSHI OGATA

initiatives

ICAR Hosts Civilian Devastation in War Conference

By Daniel Rothbart, Ph.D., ICAR Faculty, drothbar@gnu.edu

Events

Caught in the wake of martial forces, civilians live a strange kind of existence. Cast as objects defined only in their relation to the activities and objectives of military campaigns, civilians are war's weakest participants who, simultaneously, endure the greatest degree of suffering. Military fatalities represent a fraction of those of civilians—their deaths in comparison are calculated at a ratio of one-to-eight on a global scale.

Seeking to draw attention to the plight of civilians in war, ICAR sponsored a conference on March 27, 2009, entitled "Civilian Devastation in War." Researchers, scholars, and practitioners addressed the scale of civilian casualties in war, the sources of such casualties, the current state of practices seeking to reduce civilian casualties, and alternative practices for civilian protection. The conference opened with a keynote address by Chris Hedges whose experience as a war correspondent provided the backdrop for explaining how "good people" at home can succumb to deep psychological instincts and strongly favor violence as a means of solving global problems. Hedges powerfully illustrated how war fosters a kind of religious vigilance in the name of a secular or religious god.

"Civilians are war's weakest participants who, simultaneously, endure the greatest degree of suffering."

—DANIEL ROTHBART

of civilians. Marc Garlasco, a senior analyst at Human Rights Watch, explained how his organization relies on such laws when confronting military leaders with cases of civilian brutality at the hands of their troops. Humanitarian peace operations also seek to address such suffering, as Georgetown's Donald Daniel demonstrated. Ira Houch, Chaplain in the U.S. Army, discussed how international laws and enforcement mechanisms around humanitarian issues can be strengthened.

The failings of international law to protect civilians in modern war are legend. In his riveting account of the war in Darfur, ICAR's Suliman Giddo recounted atrocities perpetrated by members of the Janjaweed

tribe, who work in concert with the Government of Sudan on an ideological mission to Islamize and Arabize Darfur. Their collaboration shows how inadequate international laws are in enforcing restrictions on state-sanctioned violence. Neta Crawford, professor of political science, characterized civilian casualties in state-sponsored wars as systematic, routine, and structural. Her research on U.S. military history revealed patterns of massive civilian devastation in U.S. wars.

Dr. Karina Korostelina offered an original conception of civilians in war, replacing the dualism of groups in enmity with a triplet model involving the ingroup in their relations to BOTH the enemy Other and the civilian Other. This new framing of conflictual relations was illustrated by Neta Oren's narrative analysis of testimony given by the Israeli leadership during an investigation of decisions made in the Second Lebanon War.

The conference concluded with accounts of two modes of practice. Sarah Holewinski, President of Campaign for Innocent Civilians In Conflict, summarized a project in which civilians receive compensation from military forces. Dr. Christopher Mitchell explained how zones of peace have been created to protect civilians who are engulfed by war's tumult.

The success of the conference has prompted ICAR to launch a new program—Civilian Devastation in War—which will serve as a forum for both research and practice. ■

Upcoming ICAR Community Events

Monday, April 20, 2009

Guest Speaker: Michael Bamberg

Dominant Positions: Conformity and Resistance in Narrative Politics

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm, Truland Building, 555

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

ICAR 5th Annual Undergraduate Program Lecture Featuring Sara Cobb

Radicalized Narratives: Immigration in the Shadow of 9/11

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm, Fairfax Campus, Mason Hall, Edward Meese Conference Room

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Celebration of Student Achievements

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm, Truland Building, 555

Saturday, April 25, 2009

3rd Annual Innovations in Student Leadership Conference

Conflict Resolution and Governance

9:00 am - 5:30 pm, Location TBA

<http://icar.gmu.edu/events.htm>

Dr. Hugo Slim, who has written extensively on civilians in war, discussed a new form of consciousness that allows insight into the processes that drive a nation to condone collective violence, as well as inflict and then deny the resultant civilian suffering.

Other speakers addressed the promise and the problems linked to the international humanitarian laws of war. According to Dr. Aaron Fellmeth, such laws seek to minimize civilian casualties by constraining the actions of military leaders and placing limits on the targeting

ICAR STUDENT OPINION

U.S. Aid Should be Conditional on Laws That Protect Women

By Elizabeth M. Murray, ICAR M.S. Student, emurray3@gmu.edu



Afghan President Hamid Karzai effectively legalized marital rape last week by signing a law that allows Afghan Shiite men to demand sex from their wives every four days. The Shia Family Law, widely considered a strategic move by Karzai to gain support from conservative clerics for his reelection in August, also forbids women from venturing outside of the home without the permission of a male relative.

President Obama has decried the new Afghan law as “abhorrent,” and Secretary Clinton expressed her concern both in a private meeting with the Afghan president and in an interview with Radio Free Afghanistan. They were not alone in their condemnation; after worldwide government and civil society leaders expressed their vehement disapproval, Karzai agreed to place the law under review.

Under current policy, however, the firm statements by U.S. leadership will likely amount to little more than a slap on the wrist for Afghanistan. The Obama administration has made no indication that U.S. aid to Afghanistan would be affected if President Karzai were to implement the repressive law. In an interview last week, Vice President Biden made it clear that the United States’ main reason for engaging in Afghanistan is to protect our country from terrorist attacks by defeating Al-Qaeda.

Few Americans would disagree that keeping our country safe is of utmost importance, but many are justifiably outraged that our ally in Afghanistan has shown himself to have such repressive tendencies. Without a clear motivation from the United States to revise the law, it is possible that Mr. Karzai will merely delay its implementation until outcry from the press has died down. The United States should take a firm stance on women’s rights by making a portion of Afghanistan’s aid package conditional on the implementation of laws that respect and protect women. Moreover, such a policy should extend to other recipients of U.S. aid that are failing to do the same.

The plight of women in Afghanistan has been widely publicized in recent years, but Afghanistan is by no means the only country where women’s rights are denied and their abuse is condoned. Worldwide, one in three women will be a victim of violence in her lifetime, and the perpetrator is generally a man whom she knows, oftentimes her husband. Despite this, less than half of the world’s countries have instituted laws that specifically protect women from domestic violence. Many countries that do have domestic violence laws lack the mechanisms to enforce them.

A great deal of the billions of dollars in U.S. aid given every year is granted to countries that fall short of protecting women. This represents an enormous missed opportunity for the United States to promote a women’s right to live free from violence and repression. The Obama Administration, the Department of State, and Congress should move to make certain types of aid conditional on credible evidence that recipient countries possess and enforce laws that protect women, or are making steady progress towards this goal.

Aid that explicitly advances our strategic interests, like strengthening the Afghan military and police, should be exempt from these sanctions, as should aid for humanitarian purposes. In the Afghan case, if President Karzai were to implement the Shia Family Law, the United States should withdraw aid for certain infrastructure and economic development

Recent ICAR Articles, Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor

Foreign Policy Maze Ahead of Obama

By David Young, ICAR M.S. Alumnus
Le Monde diplomatique - English edition, 4/13/09

Bosnia's International Governor Needs to Flex His Muscles

By Masanobu Yonemitsu, ICAR M.S. Alumnus
The Wall Street Journal Europe, 4/7/09

More Force in Afghanistan?

By Saira Yamin, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
The New York Times, 4/3/09

A Jihadist Worth Emulating

By Michael L. Owens, Special Assistant to the Cumbie Chair at ICAR
PostGlobal on *washingtonpost.com*, 4/2/09

What the Middle East Can Learn From Southeast Asia

By Samuel Rizk, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
Common Ground News Service, 3/31/09

Can Washington Help the Palestinians Forming a Unity Government?

By Rawhi Afaghani, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
Al Alarabiya, 3/19/09

Turkey's Return to Glory

By Marc Gopin, ICAR Professor
Today's Zaman, 3/18/09

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ICAR Alumnus: Chad Ford

Educator, Journalist, and Peace Player

By Lori-Ann Stephensen, ICAR M.S. Student, lstephea@gmu.edu



Chad Ford. Photo: BYU Hawaii.

Chad Ford is a multi-tasker by nature. In Spring, 2000, when he graduated with an M.S. from ICAR, he also earned a J.D. in International Law from Georgetown University and he hasn't slowed down since.

After graduation, life took an interesting turn when ESPN bought Sportstalk.com, where Ford was

Executive Editor and co-founder. Sportstalk.com became ESPN Insider and Ford stayed on as a Senior Editor, covering the NBA draft. Caught in the fast pace of professional media, Ford's conflict resolution training seemed sidetracked until NBA star, Dikembe Mutombo, invited him to South Africa in 2003. In Soweto, South Africa, he began to imagine an amalgamation of journalism and peacebuilding. Ford began writing and researching the role of sports in conflict resolution—traveling to the Balkans, the Middle East, and Africa—and ESPN became a forum for more than just sports. (See: <http://sports.espn.go.com/espn/eticket/story?page=playingforpeace>).

In 2005, Ford left full-time employment with ESPN and moved with his wife Joanie and their four children to Laie, a small town on the North Shore of Oahu, to accept a position as an Assistant Professor of International Cultural Studies at Brigham Young University Hawaii. He began teaching courses in intercultural conflict, and in 2006, was named Director of the David O. McKay Center for Intercultural Understanding. When BYU Hawaii was dedicated in 1955, its founder stated, "You mark my word, from this school will go men and women whose influence will be felt for good towards the establishment of peace internationally." Ford took the statement to heart and, in his capacity as Director, developed the Intercultural Peacebuilding Certificate in 2008. The Certificate program offers a multidisciplinary curriculum, influenced by ICAR, including 19 credit hours of course work and 20 hours of practicum.

Another important component of Ford's peacebuilding amalgamate was added in 2006, when he was introduced to the work of The

Arbinger Institute, which has developed a conflict resolution model that invites participants to consider, through narrative, the influence of their own self-deception in collusive cycles of conflict. He has used this model in his consulting work with PeacePlayers International, an NGO that builds the capacity for peace in areas of protracted conflict through youth basketball leagues. Ford has also incorporated the model in his work for the Shimon Peres Center for Peace in Israel and The Arbinger Institute, where he works with organizations, families, and individuals in conflict. Ford recently developed, "The Choice in Peacebuilding," an adaptation of the model designed for peacebuilding practitioners, and is currently working on "The Choice in Conflict Transformation," which is due out later this spring.

Ford recalls ICAR as, "an amazing experience! To be surrounded by so many different fields of academic expertise and to have them all focus on one subject—conflict—was unique. I felt like the variety of perspectives I got from professors and students, along with the experience gained from practice, opened up a whole new world and set me on the path toward what I'm doing now."

Regarding what he's doing now: it is spring and the Winter term at BYUH is winding down, the NBA draft is coming into full swing, a publishing deadline with Arbinger is approaching, and planning for the next trip to Israel with PPI is already underway. Regardless of which "hat" Ford is wearing—educator, journalist, or peace player he sports them all for one purpose—building the human capacity for peace. Chad Ford can be reached at chad.ford@byuh.edu. ■



Ford playing for peace in Israel. Photo: Chad Ford..

Middle East Media Forum

Continued from page 1



Solon Simmons is a professor of Conflict Resolution at ICAR. Photo: ICAR.

from Seymour Hersh and Ahmed El Sheikh, to Robert Fisk and Azmi Beshara. The conference opened with greetings offered by Wadah Khanfar, the Director General of the Al Jazeera Network, who spoke in Arabic but theorized in English with overt references to Samuel Huntington, Zbigniew Brzezinski and Joseph Nye.

The panels of the forum revealed an intriguing worldview, the key assumptions of which were that the world was becoming multi-polar, that regional power in the Middle East was shifting from the current Israeli-American hegemony to a new balance between Turkey and Iran, and that the lessons of history make clear that Afghanistan is the graveyard of empires. The problem with these assumptions, as they were employed, was not that they were wrongheaded or divorced from disinterested inquiry, but that they came off as more aspirational than analytical.

The most powerful speakers—like Abdul Bari Atwan, the Editor in Chief of Al Quds Al Arabi—developed incisive historical condemnations of American policy in the region, which relied on first order historical analogy with little situational empirical support. Atwan argued that, as fell the British, so fell the Soviets and so too will fall the Americans. In this instance, it took an Afghani voice to suggest that the current context in that country may differ in important ways from those precedents. Atwan's response

that the Taliban would return to power and that their problems with women's rights were exaggerated in a biased Western media, provided little comfort.

What became clear through the course of the proceedings was that while Al Jazeera had developed a powerful new global voice, it was, as yet, unclear about how to use it in conversation with its ever present American interlocutor. Media stars from the English and Arabic divisions of the channel led discussions in a balanced and respectful way, but what was striking to this American outsider was how eager the hosts were to interface with a generally Western and specifically American viewpoint, while they had so little success in doing so.

This is a fascinating problem and stands in analogy to the problem of resolution in the region. Well-meaning hosts struggled to wrest the microphones from dilating sheiks and pleaded for communicative action that would bring the moral frameworks of imperial and revolutionary forces into alignment; however, when a space opened for introspection, it was filled with cautious half reflections of salient Western self-understandings. Some were well

rehearsed, familiar and grounded, like of those of Seymour Hersh, Seumas Milne, and Robert Fisk. Others emerged organically as seasoned broadcasters sought balance by imploring any American at all to speak after some fiery invocation of Israeli or American brutalities. As one might expect, the typical reaction went something like, "I am rarely called on to represent my country, but I agree with everything you have just said."

The awkward preaching quality of the debate was no fault of the participants, but points to the challenges inherent in open discussion within the simplifying context of violent struggle. For all of the progress Al Jazeera has made in propelling open debate,

one still yearned for an Israeli moderate, an Obama Democrat or a Kurdish rights activist to break through the din and offer a constructive, if unpopular, perspective. In this atmosphere, it was almost possible at times to imagine that there was a consensus on regional policy and prospects for Arab unity, but that image quickly faded when the group was reminded that the rising counterpublics—Iran, Turkey and Pakistan—were non-Arab and in little agreement among themselves.

As a rallying point for critical journalists, the forum was a great success. I was struck by a question asked by an Al Jazeera journalist about how he should cover the upcoming war in Afghanistan, given the size of the country and difficulty of the terrain; it would offer nothing like the conditions that led to the brilliant coverage in Gaza with its tightly packed million and a half quasi prisoners. The audience and panelists offered pragmatic and thoughtful responses on the ways that media could be used to counter American initiatives. In the spirit of Jefferson, it made me tremble for my country to reflect that God is just.

As an intellectual affair, I was much less impressed. The careful and detailed framework of structural realities and historical continuities in the region, proposed by Michael Hudson of Georgetown, came off as a rare breath of fresh air. For

a moment, the conversation seemed less based on an abstract hope that America will fail and more on the harsh realities of the region. These may coincide, but probably not in the spirit of the gathering. To paraphrase the remarks of Claire Spencer of Chatham House, we may wish for a wiser America but perhaps not a weaker one. The odd problematic of the setting was to demand that participants pose as tough-minded philosophical realists, but act as expressive and committed idealists; the disconnect was disconcerting.

Despite the contradictions, there is something exceptional and inspiring about what this social movement with cameras is doing in the Middle East. As one of the participants observed, Al

"As a rallying point for critical journalists, the forum was a great success."

—SOLON SIMMONS

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Al Jazeera

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Jazeera has helped to create an Arab public sphere where none existed. With the critical acclaim of its recent Gaza coverage in English, there is ever more reason to pay attention to the next act of this absorbing drama—the crafting of Arab identity in a skeptical world—because now, that skeptical world will understand what the players are saying.

What may be yet missing from the Al Jazeera toolkit is a robust sense of how to find the intellectual depth to bridge cultures, how to align Arabic and English narratives, and how to imagine an emerging cosmo-Arabism that breaks the bounds and expands the scope of older reactive and confrontational pan-Arabisms. On a tour of the original and now historical Al Jazeera control room, I noticed a quote that seemed to capture the flavor of the organization and the event: “Reality is a disappointment so I live in dreams.” As this latest Al Jazeera forum made clear, it will be important to come to terms with the new reality that this Qatari news revolution creates for the world. However, from what I saw, dreams will remain important to those disappointed with the prospects for the region for some time to come, and they may weigh on the brains of the living like a nightmare. ■

Student Opinion

Continued from page 5

projects. Defense aid, as well as projects to ensure food security and build hospitals, should remain unaffected.

Such a strategy should follow the model set out in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, first passed in 2000, and renewed in 2008, which mandates an annual study of countries’ progress in preventing, detecting, and punishing human trafficking. Countries found to be making unsatisfactory progress towards minimum standards are subject to sanctions that include withdrawal of non-humanitarian, non-trade-based aid.

Barack Obama and Joe Biden campaigned on a platform that emphasized the importance of creating equity for women both at home and abroad. Hillary Clinton has consistently advocated for women throughout the course of her career, and many celebrated her nomination to Secretary of State as an opportunity for women’s issues to be heard at the highest levels of government.

It is time now for the United States to live up to its ideals and uphold women’s rights by requiring that countries that receive U.S. aid take strong steps to protect women. ■



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AfPak: Will the New U.S. Strategy Succeed?

By Saira Yamin, Ph.D. Candidate, ICAR Adjunct Professor, syamin1@gmu.edu

Writers describe the tribal region along the borders between Afghanistan and Pakistan as al-Qaeda Central. President Obama's strategy for rooting out international terrorism aligns with this view. The Obama administration is presently mulling over its exit from Iraq, and shifting its focus to Afghanistan and Pakistan. In addition to announcing an initial surge of 17,000 US troops, a request for 70,000 more is likely to be entertained in the coming months. South Asian analysts view the surge as a reinforcement of realpolitik embedded in the Bush Doctrine; however, President Obama's grand strategy acknowledges the importance of development and diplo-



The Future of Afghanistan. Award Winning Photo: Melanie Smith.

macy in dealing with the two South Asian states, both mired in intense political and economic instability. Development can transform a conflict environment. Diplomacy is equally critical and should be the benchmark of U.S. military and development intervention in the region.

President Obama calls his strategy AfPak. He

believes that the problem of terrorism flows from one country to the other, and that the solution lies in stabilizing both states. Stability is indeed key to addressing terrorism. In the conflict resolution lexicon, stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan would be understood as a "positive peace" whereby the cessation of direct physical violence is accompanied by transformation in structural and cultural sources of conflict. Strengthening governance structures and building the capacity of grassroots communities would be integral to the establishment of "positive peace" in the region.

AfPak has been welcomed by various quarters for incorporating a develop-

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CCT Offers Courses at ICAR

By Mark Thurston, Ph.D., Affiliate Professor, mthursto@gmu.edu

Initiated in January 2009, the Center for Consciousness and Transformation (CCT) is an interdisciplinary research and teaching center at George Mason University, whose mission is to understand the nature and effects of individual and group consciousness and their role in transformative learning and social change. Housed at New Century College on the Fairfax campus of Mason, the Center will be a resource for all of the University's academic units.

CCT was established through a generous gift from the de Laski Family Foundation. The \$10 million contribution is intended to support the first decade of development. At a formal event held March 31st, Mason President Alan Merten expressed appreciation for Don and Nancy de Laski's vision and generosity, noting that the Center would be in the business of both creative *thinking* and *doing*. For Nancy de Laski, CCT is "the culmination of all the study and dreams of a lifetime. We feel the timing is perfect. The world is changing so rapidly and old ways of operating are unraveling. Hopefully, by studying consciousness, students will attain more purpose-driven lives and ultimately affect the world's future in many fields."

The Center's activities will include research conducted by ICAR faculty, as well as academic courses for ICAR students. CCT is staffed by Dr. Lois Tetrick, Director; Dr. Mark Thurston, Senior Fellow; and Stacey Guenther, Program Manager. A seven-member faculty advisory committee includes Dr. Wallace Warfield from ICAR, who describes the potential interdisciplinary reach of the Center as "breathtaking."

A central premise of the Center is that human consciousness is a key variable in the process of transformative learning for individuals and can lead to transformational change on individual,



Mark Thurston with Don de Laski. Photo: CCT.

organizational, and societal levels. CCT's approach incorporates tradition and practice with modern scientific methods in its exploration of the vast worlds of consciousness and transformation.

Two CCT one-credit courses were offered at ICAR this spring. Conf 795, "Conflict Transformation from the Inside Out," dealt with transforming internal aspects of consciousness in order to become more effective practitioners, and will likely be offered again next spring. Conf 795, "Conflict Transformation: Leading from Your Spiritual Center," co-taught with Jamil Mahuad, former president of Ecuador, dealt with a multi-level approach to peacebuilding, including analytical, emotional, and spiritual dimensions, and issues relating to ethics, values, and intentionality. A new course entitled, "Practices for Re-Constellating Conflict, Inner and Outer," is being developed for Fall 2009.

Dr. Sara Cobb, a key part of conversations leading to the founding of the Center, feels it will be a "wonderful resource for Mason, and for the world, providing a space for both research and practice that addresses the important relationship between consciousness and conflict transformation." The Center's web site is <http://cct.gmu.edu>. ■

ICAR Hosts D.C. Student Consortium Conference

By Melanie Smith, ICAR M.S. Student, msmir@gmu.edu

On Saturday, April 25th, approximately 60 conflict resolution scholars, students, and practitioners descended upon the George Mason Arlington campus, as ICAR hosted the 3rd Annual Innovations in Student Leadership Conference, "Conflict Resolution and Governance Today." The conference is the main event for OneStudentry, a grassroots assembly of students from the Washington Consortium of Universities, aimed at enhancing and promoting collaboration in the conflict resolution field. Students from Catholic University, George Washington's Elliot School of International Affairs, American University, and St. John's College in Annapolis joined ICAR students for an afternoon of intervention simulations, panel discussions, and an address by keynote speaker Lorelei Kelly.

ICAR M.S. student Lane Salter facilitated a workshop featuring Dr. Cobb's Narrative Facilitation method. Salter guided participants through the narrative framework then practiced it in a role-play and followed with discussion. Afternoon sessions included three panel discussions which

Continued on page 8

A Return to ICAR's Roots: What Ever Happened to Problem Solving Workshops?

By Christopher R. Mitchell, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, cmitchel@gmu.edu

Last summer, a subcommittee of the Point of View Academic Program Committee met following an April conference which addressed the state-of-the-art of problem solving workshops. The group consisted of Rice Professor Nadim Rouhana, Professor Ron Fisher from American University, Emeritus Professor Chris Mitchell, and ICAR Masters student Monica Flores. The focus of the subcommittee's discussion was how to press on with a "Program on Problem Solving" at Point of View—a program that would involve faculty and students from both universities and would help to revive both the understanding and practice of problem solving and dialogical interventions pioneered by scholar-practitioners such as Herb Kelman, Hal Saunders, and John Burton.

Underlying the enterprise was the recollection that the Center for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (now ICAR) was originally established at Mason precisely in order to undertake problem solving initiatives in protracted, intractable, and deep rooted conflicts—and that the last such initiative took place at ICAR in 1997!

By the end of June 2008, the group had a proposal for a "three strand" program at PoV. The program, which they plan to implement in 2009, involves a theory strand beginning with a series of symposia examining the current theories (basic human needs, small group dynamics, ripeness theory, complementarity) that underpin contemporary problem solving approaches; a training strand, aimed at developing a new generation of problem solving practitioners; and a practice strand,

“The program plans to merge the training and practice strands, so that a new generation of practitioners will receive hands-on experience...”

—CHRIS MITCHELL



Workshop Participants. Photo: Dr Betul Celik.

which will undertake analytical problem solving interventions into on-going, deep rooted conflicts, very much like the series of workshops organized in the early 1990s by Jim Laue, Chris Mitchell, and colleagues from the Center for Conflict Analysis at the University of Coleraine in Northern Ireland.

One early and unanticipated boost for the practice strand of the program was Susan Allen Nan's Georgian-Ossetian Workshop held at Point of View last December (see ICAR News, March 2009).

The training strand began on March 21st, with a two-day pilot workshop held at Point of View with Masters and ABD students from ICAR and AU. The training—intended as a trial run for future

workshops—was conducted by Professors Ron Fisher and Mohammed Abu Nimer from AU, and Susan Allen Nan and Chris Mitchell from ICAR.

For the participants, the workshop provided a fun learning experience and an opportunity for students from the two programs to work together and to get to know one another as potential partners in facilitation.

For the trainers, the experience was more than useful in preparing for future introductory skills development workshops, as well as an advanced skills workshop, slated to begin in Fall 2009.

Ultimately, the program plans to merge the training and practice strands, so that a *next generation* of practitioners will receive hands-on experience as part of a facilitation team in the real world of third party intervention into deep rooted conflicts, for which simulations provide limited preparation. ■



Lunch break at Point of View. Photo: Dr Betul Celik.

initiatives

21st Annual Lynch Lecture:

Ambassador Eliasson Urges New Priorities for U.S./E.U. Alliance

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

events



Ambassador Eliasson, Sandra Cheldelin, Kareem Terrell, Kim Orsulek, and Ross Gearllach. Photo: ICAR.

ICAR's 21st Annual Lynch Lecture was held April 9th at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., with the Honorable H. E. Jan Eliasson treating the audience to a provocative and reflective evening—challenging them to envision a new agenda for the alliance between the United States and Europe. While serving as Sweden's Ambassador to the U.S. in 2005, Eliasson was elected President of the United Nations' 60th General Assembly. In 2006, he was assigned by the U.N. as Special Envoy to Darfur, to deal with spiraling humanitarian and security crises and to facilitate negotiations between rebel groups and the Khartoum government in Sudan. Drawing on four decades of experience in relief services and mediation, including work in Somalia, Mozambique, the Balkans, Burma, Iran, Iraq, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, Eliasson offered a compelling rationale for his vision.

Following an introduction by ICAR Ph.D. Candidate Michael Shank, Ambassador Eliasson began with reflections on the current global economic crisis, considering it developmentally. The first stage, he said, grabbed international attention with the financial subprime ("sub-crime") situation. The second stage, which we are currently in, involves economic recession, rising unemployment, and a "reduction of production." The third stage will be coping with potential economic, social, and political

costs. Ambassador Eliasson wondered, with so much energy focused on managing the crisis, if we would be able to learn the important lessons that could lead to necessary change.

Eliasson addressed the long-term relationship between the U.S. and Europe and the challenges that interdependence and globalization inevitably present. He stated that, "the welfare of the other parts of the world is good for us," and proposed that there is no contradiction between good internationalism and working for one's own country.

The Ambassador presented three potential global scenarios: developing effective multilaterals; allowing the G20 to develop the rules of the game for the rest of the world, and—his "horror" scenario—of a fortified world. He insisted that the best scenario is clearly the development of effective multilaterals, because it has the most strength. U.S. and European security and economic cooperation are already strong, with nearly \$1.2 billion crossing the pond daily. If those economic forces are combined, a transatlantic agenda could be developed to address global threats, environmental degradation, climate change, and issues of poverty reduction—with the understanding that this would positively impact our own security. To this end, Eliasson challenged us to re-order our priorities saying, "We should do this because it is the right thing to do and out of enlightened self interest."

As a first priority, the Ambassador wondered, considering the \$700 billion earmarked to stimulate our economy, if we could "use \$100 billion of that to bring clean water to every human being on this earth." A second priority, he suggested, was literacy education for girls, pointing out that when women learn to read and write, 98% of them will teach their children to do so (compared to 45-50% of males). In just a generation or two, world literacy issues, along with myriad social problems that hinge on education could be addressed.

Another high priority for the U.S./European alliance should be to take on organized crime syndicates and related illegal activities, which Eliasson claims are some of the "most serious dangers in the world today." The numbers he presented are staggering: \$300 billion in drug trade,

Continued on page 5

Upcoming ICAR Community Events

Wednesday, May 13, 2009
Africa Working Group Panel Discussion

The Roots & Future Prospect of Militant Islam in Somalia
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Truland Building, 555

Saturday, May 16, 2009
ICAR Convocation Ceremony
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm, Fairfax Campus, Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall

<http://icar.gmu.edu/events.htm>

Lynch Lecture

Continued from page 4



Ambassador Eliasson. Photo: ICAR.

\$150 billion in illegal arms trade, \$150 billion in prostitution, and the trafficking of 1.2 million women and children, annually. While the public sector is taxed, none of the syndicates' money is taxed, and governments can offer little incentive to customs and border officials compared to those offered by organized crime.

A fourth priority should be research aimed at solving global health problems. Curing tropical diseases, such as tuberculosis, malaria, and worm-based illnesses, should be as important as curing our own ills—diabetes, obesity, and heart disease.

Finally, Ambassador Eliasson spoke to an essential transatlantic alliance in conflict zones, pointing out that in Afghanistan and Pakistan there needs to be policies on peacekeeping and policies that fight drug trade—strategies for civil society and strategies to limit corruption. There must also be a holistic approach to Iran. He wished that we could work together on the most intractable conflict—Israel/Palestine—but emphasized that U.S. policies must offer decisive action, especially with regard to outside actors.

The Ambassador concluded his formal remarks with a challenge for the US/European alliance to reorder its agenda in order to improve conditions globally. "What a message to convey." Use the financial crises to bring new energy and new ways of thinking with "an attitude that is a combination of passion and compassion—passion so that something happens, compassion so the right things happen."

Following Ambassador Eliasson's remarks, ICAR students Kim Orsulek, Ross Gearllach, and Kareem Terrell, launched a lively discussion which included questions from the audience. ■

New Book

Surrendering to Utopia

Stanford University Press

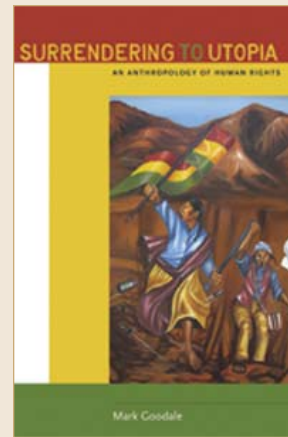
Mark Goodale,
ICAR Professor

"*Surrendering to Utopia* is a critical and wide-ranging study of anthropology's contributions to human rights. Providing a unique window into the underlying political and intellectual currents that have shaped human rights in the postwar period, this ambitious work opens up new opportunities for research, analysis, and political action. At the book's core, the author describes a "well-tempered human rights"—an orientation to human rights in the twenty-first century that is shaped by a sense of humility, an appreciation for the disorienting fact of multiplicity, and a willingness to make the mundaneness of social practice a source of ethical inspiration."

—Stanford University Press

"At a time of contrasting narratives about human rights, from irresponsible triumphalism to cynical pessimism, here is a book that masterfully guides us into the complexities of contextualized practices of human rights across cultures and national boundaries. It does this by powerfully engaging anthropology, a discipline that has been marginalized by human rights' conventional scholarship to the latter's greater loss. Thanks to Goodale's very persuasive argument the record is finally being set right."

—Boaventura de Sousa Santos, Universities of
Coimbra, Warwick, and Wisconsin-Madison



Recent ICAR Articles, Op-Eds, Letters to the Editor, and Photos

Madrassas: Resources for Peacemaking

By Rebecca Cataldi, ICAR M.S. Student

Voices: Tomorrow's Leaders, Today's Issues, 4/09

Responsible Journalism Series: Media as Critical Reflective Practice

By Mohammed Cherkaoui, ICAR Ph.D. Student

Common Ground News Service, 4/16/09

Lieberman and the Peace Process

By Rawhi Afaghani, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate

Common Ground News Service, 4/16/09

The Future of Afghanistan

By Melanie Smith, ICAR M.S. Student

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems Photo Contest, Winner, Public Category 2



press

Two Legacies, One Vision: The Sargent Shriver-James H. Laue Connection

By Joan Coolidge, Ph.D., ICAR Adjunct Professor, jcoolidg@gmu.edu

icar spotlight

ICAR recently had the privilege of competing with top universities to secure an endowment from the Sargent Shriver Peace Institute. Months of work by ICAR Director, Sara Cobb, in collaboration with faculty and ICAR's broader affiliates, produced an impressive thirty-two page proposal and video. The proposal draws on ICAR's 30-year history as a leader in the field of conflict resolution, advancing a future vision of positive social change amidst the urgency of the present demand for justice and an end to violence.

In proposing that ICAR become the Sargent Shriver School for the Analysis and Resolution of Conflict, we considered the life and work of Sargent Shriver. Renowned for decades of service, he built national programs like the Peace Corps and Head Start, as well as programs to eradicate poverty, racial injustice, and social inequity. As reflective practitioners, we revisited our own history, recalling its early voices—including the late James Laue, a beloved colleague who helped to shape ICAR's early institutional vision and programming.

Laue's 1960s sit-in research initiated his friendships with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Andrew Young, and other civil rights leaders and his lifetime pursuit of justice through peacemaking. In his early public life at the Department of Justice's Community Relations Service (CRS), at a time when racial unrest raged in the South and across urban America, Laue and his colleagues broke new ground in racial conflict intervention work.

After leaving CRS, Laue continued devel-



James H. Laue. Photo: ICAR

oping intervention theory and techniques at Harvard University Medical, at Washington University, and at the University of Missouri at St. Louis. In St. Louis, he headed up the Center for Metropolitan Studies, investigating conflicts like inmate

grievance procedures, school desegregation, and urban development. Laue's pragmatic approach focused on results that changed people's lives. Realizing the growing strain on communities, he leveraged academic knowledge and resources to address real world problems.

"...the far-reaching visions and pragmatic approaches of both Laue and Shriver hold the dignity of the person and the service of communities as their central purpose..."

—JOAN COOLIDGE

Laue's expertise in community conflict intervention earned him national recognition and he began to develop the field by strengthening and expanding conflict resolution networks such as the National Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution and

developing institutions to prosper the work. Laue and others envisioned the creation of a peace academy where the government would invest in, and support, the training of a cadre of skilled peacemaking scholar/practitioners. The nine-year grass-roots effort resulted in the establishment of the United States Institute for

Continued on page 8

ICAR Undergrad Named Carnegie Junior Fellow

By Lori-Ann Stephensen, M.S. Student, lstephea@gmu.edu



Danny Kaysi. Photo: Evan Cantwell.

Danial Kaysi transferred from the American University of Beirut, because ICAR's undergraduate program "is one of the pioneers and most renowned conflict analysis programs in the country." Kaysi, who majored in CAR and minored in Business Administration, will be graduating this month with more than just his Bachelors degree—he has been named George Mason's first Junior Fellow at the Carnegie Foundation for International Peace and will begin a one-year fellowship in Carnegie's Middle East program in August. Kaysi has been working as an undergraduate apprentice, with faculty mentor Patricia Maulden, on the Political Youth Leadership and Conflict Management Project and as an intern with the Dialogue and Difference program. As part of his internship, he collaborated on the development of Conf 341, a one-credit course which introduces students to practical skills such as mediation, negotiation, and dialogue. Kaysi is also the course assistant. After the Carnegie fellowship, he hopes to earn a Masters in law and diplomacy. ■



Saira Yamin is an Adjunct Professor at ICAR. Photo: ICAR.

ment approach with military security. Conflict analysts would concur that the denial of basic human needs often lies at the roots of an intractable conflict. In this light, AfPak proffers a sound formula. Troop deployment to enforce peace in the region shall be supplemented by development and reconstruction in Afghanistan and Pakistan's tribal districts: infrastructure would be built and jobs would be created, local industries and livelihood shall be revived, and access to education and health care shall be ensured. Socioeconomic and political uplift of local communities would prevent recruitment in al-Qaeda's rank and file. Al-Qaeda would no longer find sanctuary among the presently alienated indigenous communities. Could this work? Yes. And no.

While President Obama presents a relatively sound prescription for peace in the region, there are gaps in his intervention plan. The President may find it a challenge to mobilize resources required to build peace in Afghanistan. Practically, this would mean rebuilding a whole country. Similarly, Pakistan's border regions would require high levels of sustained funding. Assuming that President Obama is able to muster support on the scale of the Marshall Plan from the EU and the G-20, could AfPak succeed? Unlikely.

There are lacunae in AfPak that hinder its success. The plan must engage primary stakeholders

in planning, decision-making, and implementation. Close communication, coordination, and cooperation between government officials are essential ingredients missing from U.S. intervention in the region

Conflict resolution theory brings into sharp focus the need for intervention coordination. In this case, intervention coordination would entail confidence-building measures between governments to address the deficit of trust. US military strikes in Afghanistan and Pakistan are not generally planned in collaboration, and are often protested by governments in the two states. This contributes to conflict escalation as state sovereignty and legitimacy are undermined. Collateral damage and internal and external displacement generate resentment for the United States and sympathy for al-Qaeda. The relationship between the Afghan and Pakistan governments is also marked by mutual suspicion. For effective intervention coordination, all sides would need to work together in sharing information, situational analysis, and planning and implementing military operations. Ultimately, the engagement of US-led NATO troops in the region should be phased out and replaced by U.N. peacekeepers with the right mandate.

AfPak must also consider the importance of empowering and re-integrating all ethnic groups in Afghanistan, including the Pashtuns, Tajiks, Uzbeks, Hazaras, and others. Working closely with moderate Taliban factions can mitigate the terrorist threat significantly. Initiating a dialogue with radical Taliban elements could be explored through bridge-builders similar to international goodwill ambassadors. Reconciliation and power-sharing should underpin the development of democratic institutions. *Shura* (consultation) by tribal councils, an indigenous dispute reso-

lution mechanism, offers opportunities for participatory development processes. Integrating tribal communities in Pakistan with the mainstream is equally important. In order for AfPak to succeed, close coordination and collaboration with the local civil society is imperative. Networking with NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and INGDOs (international non-governmental development organizations) would be helpful in this regard. Promoting linkages between the Afghan and Pakistan governments and the NGOs and INGDOs, to plan and implement development projects, is a role the US could play effectively. Supporting partnerships between CBOs (community-based organizations), NGOs, and government organizations would make the plan more cost-effective, facilitate participatory approaches, and increase the sustainability of development initiatives.

AfPak should also consider international trade opportunities for Afghanistan and Pakistan as a means of generating revenue for development. This would be a viable substitute for development aid. Lifting US trade barriers and advocating regional trade agreements can boost local industries and create jobs.

Economic cooperation with India, Russia, Iran, Central Asian Republics, and China would pave the way for better regional integration and would ultimately benefit all actors. Trade with Pakistan and Afghanistan would build economic stakes in the stability of the two states across the region. NGOs from neighboring states could also be involved in development projects in both Pakistan and Afghanistan, providing an added incentive to cooperate in building a peaceful environment.

AfPak's emphasis on development strategies is commendable; however, the greater challenge lies in the realization that development must come from within. In the final analysis, Washington's success will be gauged by a shift in South Asian narratives, whereby the U.S. is positioned as a mediator, a benefactor, and a harbinger of peace. ■

“In order for AfPak to succeed, close coordination and collaboration with the local civil society is imperative.”

—SAIRA YAMIN

Shriver/Laue Connection

Continued from page 6

Peace, which currently receives a multi-million dollar appropriation, and is constructing "Peacemakers Plaza" near the National Mall, which will draw an anticipated 400,000 visitors annually.

Laue also advanced the academic discipline of conflict resolution through theory-building (most notably his contribution to applied ethics) and innovative practice related to his work with the Conflict Clinic, Inc., which he helped bring to Mason. His greatest contribution was his ability to inspire others—through intellect, humor, compassion, and an unfailing moral compass—to strive for higher ground as individuals and as communities.

As we look to the past to imagine the future, it is apparent that the far-reaching visions and pragmatic approaches of both Laue and Shriver hold the dignity of the person and the service of communities as their central purpose, with the aim of advancing opportunities, particularly for those most marginalized. The consideration of these two iconic figures has inspired the proposal of new ICAR initiatives: The Sargent Shriver Legacy Initiative, the Media and Conflict Resolution Initiative, the Social Inequality and Collaborative Engagement Initiative, and the Spiritual Peacemakers Network, which reflect what Laue and Shriver clearly understood—that people come before programs and institutions.

ICAR's greatest strength is its character, conviction, and capacity to serve others through its expansive network. While the Shriver endowment is pending, we remain confident that ICAR will continue to lead the field of peacebuilding, through its accomplishments and through its abiding commitment to pursue justice and to labor for peace. ■

OneStudentry Conference

Continued from page 2

considered the use of communications and technology in conflict resolution, government's role in human rights, and new models for conflict resolution. Two ICAR Ph.D. candidates, Suliman Giddo and Miki Jacevic, served as panelists for the human rights discussion moderated by ICAR's Dr. Karina Korostelina. The panel, which also featured Nina Besser, Legislative Assistant for Congresswoman Jane Schokowsky (D-IL), elicited a rich, motivating discussion.

The conference concluded with an address by Lorelei Kelly, director of the National Security Program for the American Progressive Policy Caucus Foundation. Kelly spoke of the need to redefine security to reflect conflict resolution values, advocating a shift from containment policies to policies oriented toward legitimacy. Kelly also provided insight into how the intellectual firepower of the conflict resolution field is often not well suited for Capitol Hill, suggesting that more "user friendly" methods can be employed to impact policy. ■



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Andrea Bartoli and the Evolution of ICAR

By Richard E. Rubenstein, Ph.D., ICAR University Professor of Conflict Resolution and Public Affairs, rrubenst@gmu.edu

It isn't often that one senses a new phase of development beginning. Usually, these commencements go unremarked. Only later does it become clear that an event which seemed relatively continuous with the past was actually a door opening upon a new stage of one's personal or professional life. Prediction is a hazardous business, of course. In ancient Rome, "inauguration"



ICAR Director, Dr. Andrea Bartoli. Photo: ICAR.

tion" meant reading the entrails to foretell the fates of the leader and the state. Nonetheless, Andrea Bartoli's inauguration as ICAR director seems to me an event both reflective and generative of a new period of transformation.

Professor Bartoli came to ICAR two years ago as Christopher Mitchell's successor in the Drucie French Cumbie Chair of

Conflict Resolution. Since that chair was designed to be occupied by a world-class conflict resolution practitioner, scholar, and teacher, there was much talk on the search committee of "replacing the irreplaceable," but fortune smiled upon us twice. First, Chris Mitchell remained a powerful, creative force at ICAR. Second, Andrea had the rare combination of talents, experiences, and character needed to do the job brilliantly. These same abilities made him a natural choice to succeed the redoubtable Sara Cobb as director of the

transitions

Inside This Issue...

- 2 Retrospective: A Congregation of Leaders
- 3 Initiatives: New Graduate Certificate Launched
- 4 Events: Zones of Peace Symposium
- 5 Press: ICAR Student Opinion, Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor
- 6 Spotlight: ICAR Welcomes New Faculty Members

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A Congregation of Leaders: ICAR's Directors from 1983-Present

By Richard E. Rubenstein, Ph.D., ICAR University Professor of Conflict Resolution and Public Affairs, rrubenst@gmu.edu



ICAR's first director was the remarkable *Bryant Wedge*, a charismatic Yale psychiatrist and social scholar who pioneered the use of psychoanalytic concepts to interpret the behavior of political leaders, and who helped create the original Center for Conflict Resolution at George Mason in 1981. With his colleague and successor, former Foreign Service Officer *Henry C. Barringer*, and with the support of future ICAR director James H. Laue, Wedge led the fight for a National Peace Academy, which eventuated in the creation of the US Institute for Peace.



George Mason sociologist *Joseph Scimecca* succeeded to the directorship in 1986. Under his leadership, a group consisting of John Burton, Dennis Sandole, Kevin Avruch, and others succeeded in creating and securing approval for the nation's first doctoral program in Conflict Analysis and Resolution. They also won a major, multi-year institutional grant from the James and Flora Hewlett Foundation and, with the support of Edwin and Helen Lynch, established the first chaired professorship in Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

Richard Rubenstein, currently University Professor at ICAR, served as director from 1989-1991. During his term of office, the Center for Conflict Analysis and Resolution became a free-standing Institute, the Lynch Lectures were initiated, ICAR convened the nation's first major conference on the News Media and Conflict Resolution, and John Burton's and Frank Dukes' four-volume *Conflict* series was published by Macmillan/St. Martin's Press with participation by other faculty members. Rubenstein's successor, Christopher Mitchell (1991-94), initiated the process by which ICAR would later become a Commonwealth of Virginia Center of Excellence, as well as the leading institutional home for Zones of Peace research. Mitchell strengthened ICAR's commitment to reflective practice and organized major conferences

on negotiation before becoming the first *Drucie French Cumbie Chair of Conflict Resolution*.

Kevin Clements, a New Zealander and secretary-general of the International Peace Research Association, became ICAR's director in 1994 and served until 1997. His administration saw the first significant jump in numbers of graduate students, and completed the process by which ICAR became a Commonwealth Center of Excellence. Rapid growth continued during the directorship of *Sandra Cheldelin* (1997-2000), current holder of the Vernon and Minnie Lynch Chair of Conflict Resolution, who used her considerable organizational skills to make peace within the Institute and improve relations with the University, as well as raising significant funds for ICAR research, and beginning the work with Daniel Druckman and Larissa Fast which would later produce ICAR's first all-faculty textbook, *Conflict: From Analysis to Intervention*, now in its second edition.

Sara Cobb, ICAR's longest-serving director, served from 2000 until 2008 and oversaw the largest growth burst in Institute history. Under her leadership, the beautiful property at Point of View in Mason's Neck Virginia, left to ICAR under the will of Edwin and Helen Lynch, was funded and developed into a workable center for meetings and home to graduate fellows. Sara presided over the creation of George Mason's first undergraduate program in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, originally directed by Professor Susan Hirsch, which now boasts several hundred majors. She instituted administrative reforms that gave ICAR its first genuinely effective administrative staff. And she actively promoted trends, which positioned the Institute as a "player" in the world of Washington, D.C. without sacrificing its political and intellectual independence.



Former ICAR Directors: Left side, top to bottom: Bryant M. Wedge, Henry Barringer, and James Laue. Right side, top to bottom: Joseph Scimecca, Richard Rubenstein, Christopher Mitchell, Kevin Clements, Sandra Cheldelin, and Sara Cobb. Photos for Wedge, Barringer, Laue, Rubenstein, Mitchell, Clements, Cheldelin, and Cobb: ICAR. Scimecca Photo: GMU.

New Graduate Certificate Launched

Environmental Conflict Resolution and Collaboration

By, Frank Dukes, Ph.D., Director, Environmental Conflict Resolution Initiative, ICAR, Environmental Science & Policy, GMU, edukes@gmu.edu

In partnership with the Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy (ESP), ICAR has established a 15-credit *Graduate Certificate in Environmental Conflict Resolution and Collaboration* beginning in August 2009. This program has been developed in collaboration with Dr. Frank Dukes of the Institute for Environmental Negotiation, University of Virginia, and in consultation with an informal advisory group of environmental leaders in the region.

Why this new certificate program? Crashed fisheries, lost species, contaminated water, toxic communities, looming impacts of global warming – despite decades of laws, regulations, and environmental education, we are failing in many ways and in many locations to ensure a safe, resilient, and nurturing environment. The President's Commission on Sustainable Development found that environmental conflicts “increasingly are exceeding the capacity of institutions, processes, and mechanisms to resolve them ... What is usually missing from the process is a mechanism to enable the many stakeholders to work together to identify common goals, values, and areas of interest through vigorous and open public discussion.”

Leaders from all sectors – public, private, and nonprofit – need the ability to build consensus when faced with conflicting interests and difficult choices. Environmental decisions are generally better when developed by processes that are inclusive of diverse views, transparent and inviting to those such decisions affect, and responsive to participant needs. Such processes can shape behavior that builds relationships of integrity and trust and decisions that are creative, effective and legitimate. Communities can only be sustained ecologically, socially, and economically with informed, legitimated participation by citizens actively engaged in public life.

Dr. Dukes returns to ICAR and ESP after a nearly 20-year hiatus in his teaching in the program. The second student to receive his Ph.D. from ICAR, he has worked for the Institute for Environmental Negotiation (IEN) since 1990, and has



Dr. Frank Dukes. Photo: ICAR.

Continued on page 8

initiatives

New Leadership for Undergrad and Master's Programs

By Lori-Ann Stephensen, ICAR M.S. Student, lstephea@gmu.edu

Both the Undergraduate and Master's programs will begin the 2009-10 academic year under new leadership. ICAR Associate Professor, Dr. Agnieszka Paczynska will assume the position of Undergraduate Program Director, taking over for Dr. Susan Hirsch. Dr. Paczynska has been at ICAR since 2002. As we go to press she is monitoring presidential and provincial council elections in Jalalabad, Afghanistan with Democracy International. This transition takes place as the undergraduate program celebrates its 5th anniversary as part of the ICAR community. Dr. Paczynska is anticipating the upcoming conference scheduled for late October, which will explore the experiences of youth in post-conflict settings.



Dr. Agnieszka Paczynska.
Photo: ICAR.

Other plans for the program include an expansion of community service activities that will integrate ICAR's undergraduate and graduate communities.

Associate Professor, Dr. Mark Goodale, will assume the position of M.S. Program Coordinator, replacing Dr. Andrea Bartoli. Dr. Goodale, who has been at ICAR since 2003, is convinced that a Master's degree from ICAR is suited to a wide range of career options and is ready to help M.S. students find their place at ICAR and in the wider world of conflict analysis and resolution. He emphasizes the need for students to be proactive in making their academic needs and objectives known.

Dr. Mara Schoeny will continue to serve as director of the Certificate Program and Dr. Sandra Cheldelin will remain in her role as Ph.D. Program Coordinator. ■



Dr. Mark Goodale. Photo: ICAR.

Zones of Peace in the South Caucasus

ICAR Hosts Symposium at Point of View

By, Ekaterina Romanova, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate, eromonov@gmu.edu

The long-term consequences of the five-day war over South Ossetia in August 2008 are difficult to evaluate. The contested status of South Ossetia, recriminatory blame and civilian devastation contribute to an unstable situation in the region with a deepening divide between the South Ossetian and Georgian societies. Given the fact that a number of frozen conflicts remain unresolved in the broader South Caucasus region, the situation in South Ossetia gives urgency to finding peaceful, comprehensible and sustainable ways to resolve conflicts in the South Caucasus.

Working with grant funding from Mason's Center for Global Studies, Susan Allen Nan convened the "Zones of Peace in the South Caucasus" symposium in May 2009. The symposium brought together topical and regional experts to discuss the concept and its relevancy and applicability to this volatile region. According to Susan Allen Nan's opening presentation, the concept "Zones of Peace" is understood as an attempt to establish norms

which limit the destructive effects of violent conflict within a particular area, during a particular time period, or with regard to a particular category of people. Zones of Peace can assume various forms, including demilitarized buffer zones, or villages that are open to all non-military personnel, or market places that all can access without fear for their security. On a larger scale, a zone of peace can come in the form of an entire country or region with limited military forces.

Experts from ICAR and the broader Conflict Resolution community, including Dr. Susan Allen

Nan, Dr. Christopher Mitchell, Dr. Wallace Warfield, Ambassador John McDonald, Dr. Landon Hancock, Dr. Ayse Kadayifci-Orellana, Irakli Kakabadze, Valeriy Dzutsev, Alex van Oss, Ekaterina Romanova, Natalia Fadlalla and Adriana Salcedo shared their first hand experience and knowledge of examples of zones of peace. Representatives of NGOs working in the region and members of civil society also attended the symposium

The models discussed included urban areas in New York and Washington, D.C.; villages in Colombia and the Philippines, territories along the border of Ecuador and Peru; and El Salvador and Costa Rica. Participants discussed whether Zones of Peace are viable ways to help build a peaceful Caucasus, considering, what steps can be taken to advance this solution. The range in size and scope of Zones of Peace, the various ways they are formed and interact with existing socio-political structures, as well as their shifting dynamics offer multiple possibilities. Zones of Peace do not necessarily require physical space. They can be collaborative virtual spaces centered on scientific, cultural and academic exchange, the work of doctors and medical personnel in conflict-ridden territories, or even internet-based social networks. As an example, symposium participants suggested restoring libraries or setting up a library consortium and interlibrary loan program as a way of preserving and advancing diversity of the languages and culture of the Caucasus. The model employed by "Doctors without borders" could help provide necessary medical care and address the lack of hospitals and qualified medical personnel.

Given the cultural and religious diver-

Continued on page 8



Zones of Peace participants at Point of View.

Photo: Romanova.

Events

Upcoming ICAR Community Events

Saturday, August 29, 2009

GSCS Welcome Back Picnic

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm, Point of View

Saturday, September 12, 2009

ICAR Welcome Dinner

5:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Original Building, 329

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Event Planning Workshop

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Truland Building, 555

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Tatsushi Arai Book Talk

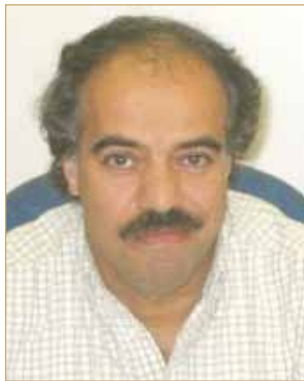
Creativity and Conflict Resolution: Alternative Pathways to Peace

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Truland Building, 555

<http://icar.gmu.edu/events.htm>

When Conflict Resolution Challenges Split-Screens

By Mohammed D. Cherkaoui, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate,
mcherkao@gmu.edu



Mohammed Cherkaoui.
Photo: ICAR.

With the growing optimism in the revival of multilateralism in the Obama administration, there arises an opportunity for the Conflict Resolution community to reach out to public audiences and make its presence known. The time is ripe for conflict theorists and practitioners to step into the relatively uncharted territory of mediatic conflict resolution, lending their voices in an effort to stimulate change and introduce an alternate orientation that challenges zero sum solutions, humanizes the parties to conflict, and exposes distortions

on all sides. Essentially, there is a *basic need* for practitioners to position themselves, with their nuanced knowledge and field experience, between the dueling "talking heads" that currently dominate the "analysis" of conflict by employing vitriolic sound bites and abbreviated video clips as their weapons of choice.

Broadcast media enjoys ever-increasing influence in the shaping of public perceptions and opinions, which in turn drives polls and political decisions. Despite their claims of objectivism, news anchors spin parallel spirals, striving to maximize and accelerate the contrast between the "Just Self" and the "Unjust Other," thereby camouflaging common ground. As the saying goes, "if it bleeds it leads." This melodramatic contextualization gains power as it feeds mythic narratives within the scope of polarized audiences. Distorted representations of the parties' positions, generally remain uncontested and function to satisfy the public's demand for "real drama," fuel the ratings race, and ramp up the competition over who wields the banner of "justice" and "righteousness."

Conflict experts, including the ICAR community, should move from a passive position to become proactive agents of change – qualitatively by entering the public discourse through the myriad of public media options – quantitatively by assessing and analyzing the impact of the media on public perception. A significant opportunity was missed after 9/11, but the post-Bush era should not remain unexplored in terms of bringing Conflict Resolution into the public eye, the public ear, and possibly the public imagination. Consider the potential of an audience that aspires to formulate solutions and resolutions. This is an age of dynamic bottom-up conflict resolution. As John Burton emphasized decades ago, we must move "from institutions to persons as the units of analysis" (Burton 1959). The field can and should address the public directly and we should not wait to be invited into interviews. We should initiate and offer an orientation of resolution and transformation, inviting ourselves in front of cameras and microphones and forging a relationship with the media in order to insert a third voice into the sardonic split-screens of public discourse. ■

Recent ICAR Articles, Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor

LTE Re: Defending the Airways

By Dennis Sandole, ICAR Professor
The Economist, 8/13/09

People to People Contact

By Saira Yamin, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
The News, 8/8/09

The Art of Appeasement: Unraveling a Patchwork of Improvised Disaster

By David Young, ICAR M.S. Alumnus
Asia Times, 7/31/09

Bullies, Jerks, and Weasels

By Sandra Cheldelin, ICAR Professor
Change Magazine, 7/6/09

Atrocity in Context

By Solon Simmons, ICAR Professor
Global Studies Review, 7/6/09

Indicting Bashir is Wrong

By Hussein Yusuf, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
Foreign Policy in Focus, 7/02/09

Who Will 'Make the World a Better Place' Now?

By Steve Utterwulge and Abou El Mahassine Fassi-Fihri, ICAR M.S. Student
Common Ground News Service, 6/30/09

The Chadian Civil War in Sudan

By Suliman Giddo, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
Sudan Tribune, 5/20/09

The Ghost of Cyrus: Persian Potential for Reform in the Nuclear Age

By Marc Gopin, ICAR Professor
Sh'ma, 5/19/09

What Egypt Can Learn From The "Swine Flu" Scare

By Sam Rizk, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
Common Ground News Service, 5/19/09

West must push for democratic reform in Georgia

By Susan Allen Nan, ICAR Professor
The Financial Times, 5/15/09

http://icar.gmu.edu/ICAR_Newspage

press

ICAR Welcomes Dwyer and Flores

as Assistant Professors of Conflict Resolution

By Lori-Ann Stephensen, ICAR M.S. Student, lstephea@gmu.edu and Mike Giusti, ICAR M.S. Student, mgiusti1@gmu.edu



Leslie Dwyer, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution at ICAR. Photo: Dwyer.

Leslie Dwyer, who comes to ICAR from Haverford College, has joined the Institute's faculty as an Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution. Dr. Dwyer – an anthropologist with extensive expertise in social science research methodology; the social and political life of discourse, narrative, and ritual; and discourses

of transitional justice – received her Ph.D. from Princeton University in 2001. Before joining the faculty at Haverford, Dr. Dwyer was awarded postdoctoral fellowships from the MacArthur Foundation, the H.F. Guggenheim Foundation, and UCLA's Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

Dr. Dwyer has conducted fieldwork and research in Indonesia, specifically, Bali, since 1993 – and it is essentially through the relationships developed there that she was drawn into conflict resolution work. As she describes it, “conflict resolution work found me.” Dr. Dwyer is currently collaborating with her husband, Degung Santikarma, also an anthropologist and human rights activist, on a book entitled: *When the World Turned to Chaos: Violence and its Aftermath in Bali*, which addresses the implications of the 1965-66 state-sponsored violence against alleged communists. Her next project will be an ethnography of the social and political life of discourses surrounding “trauma” and PTSD in Indonesia, and their emergence within contexts of clinical practice, humanitarian intervention, democratization, and the “war on terror.”

This semester, Dr. Dwyer will teach CONF 801, Theories of the Person and looks forward to engaging students at the graduate level in courses designed to invite collaborative, creative thinking, and to encourage intellectual risk-taking.

In addition to her academic endeavors and activism, Dr. Dwyer is the mother of three busy children: Ariel, age 10, Devin, age 8, and Aileen, age 4. ■

Thomas Flores, a researcher and educator in international development and political economy, joins the ICAR faculty this year as an Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution. Coming from a faculty position in the New York University Global Affairs Program, Flores brings a wealth of experience. Not only has he received a Fulbright for work in Colombia and funding from the Ford Foundation, he was awarded two teaching prizes while in the doctoral program at the University of Michigan.

In his work, Flores focuses on the interaction between political foundations and economic growth, security challenges in developing countries, and the politics of Latin America, especially Colombia. He hopes to supplement the traditionally qualitative elements of the ICAR approach with a quantitative lens that acknowledges the value of utilizing various methods in achieving positive results for the advancement of the field. According to Flores, “I think it is important to show our commitment to conflict resolution by asking such questions as how can we do it better? And, how can we better evaluate civil conflicts, elections, etc?”

Specifically, Flores sees opportunity for exploration into the relevance of conflict resolution in the policy arena. Stemming from his belief that democracy can be implemented in post-conflict areas in a more responsible way, Flores’ hope is to, “produce policy relevant resolutions by triangulating cases, and doing such things as using statistics in an anthropological context, for example.” Additionally, Flores expressed openness to providing students additional learning experiences based on research for such cases.

Flores is coauthoring a book on economic recovery from violent civil conflicts with Professor Irfan Nooruddin of Ohio State University. ■



Thomas Flores, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution at ICAR. Photo: Flores.

spotlight

Evolution of ICAR With Bartoli

Continued from page 1



Richard Rubenstein, Ph.D., ICAR University Professor. Photo: ICAR.

Institute.

Resumes are misleading not for what they say, but for what they omit. So it is with Andrea's. We know, for example, that he is an internationally renowned peacemaker with significant experience in resolving conflicts on four continents, most famously Africa, where he and his colleagues brought Mozambique's horrific civil war to a conclusion and helped start that nation on the road to reunification and peaceful development. We know, too, that he was the founding director of Columbia University's highly successful Center for International Conflict Resolution (CICR), and that he is a senior vice-president and special representative to the UN of the remarkable Community of Sant' Egidio, the world's leading Roman Catholic peace-making organization. Among his many research-and-action projects, Andrea founded and currently directs Engaging Governments in Genocide Prevention (EGGP), a multi-year program involving scholars and governments around the world in concrete steps to prevent mass murder. His CV lists a wide range of courses taught as well as books and articles published, the latest of which is *The Contributions of NGOs to Conflict Resolution Activities* (Brill, 2009).

So what does the resume omit? Only the essential: the ways Andrea relates to other people, including his moral passion, capacity for empathetic

listening, powers of communication, institutional creativity, and style of leading "from within." There are at least four points at which these particular qualities intersect the development of ICAR and may hasten the next stage of its evolution:

(1) *Bonding and energizing the community.* ICAR has always been something of a cross between an academic department and a beloved community (or, as Dennis Sandole might put it, between a *gesellschaft* and a *gemeinschaft* institution). With the passage of time and the acceleration of growth, however, certain tendencies toward bureaucratization, diversification of individual interests, and the loosening of communal bonds were predictable. Andrea Bartoli's greatest strength as an internal leader may be his ability to counteract this partly-inevitable routinization by recalling the community to its ethical and intellectual mission, cultivating and inspiring individual talents, and helping faculty, staff, and students reconnect to the larger whole. The Italians have a word for this sort of community-building: *Risorgimento*, or resurgence.

(2) *Revitalizing praxis.* ICAR's original ambition, formulated with special clarity during the John Burton years, was to become a leader of the field, both in theory-building and practice, a task requiring us to link ideas with practical action through the mutually correcting and strengthening feedback processes known as praxis. As ICAR expanded, greatly increased demands for teaching, mentoring, and administrative committee work made it difficult for many of us to combine research and writing creatively with practice. Thanks to organizational reforms made by Sara Cobb, administrative demands on the faculty decreased and teaching schedules became more flexible. Moreover, both

the range of useful research methods and the variety of types of practice are expanding. We are counting on Andrea's commitments to erasing artificial theory/practice boundaries and reworking institutional structures to unleash people's creativity and help us take the next step toward a revitalized praxis.

(3) *Raising ICAR's public profile and influencing public policy.* Under Sara Cobb's leadership, the Institute made its presence felt in Washington, D.C., with faculty and students speaking out on vital issues of the day and proposing better methods of resolving/transforming serious transnational and domestic conflicts. Andrea Bartoli's expertise in public representation, organizing multi-institutional projects and forums, and giving voice to our collective values and ideas should accelerate this development. Equally important, his international reputation and global networks should help us to develop as a global resource for civil society members and policy makers interested in resolving

conflicts effectively and non-violently.

(4) *Leading the leaders* (not the same as "herding cats"). None of the tasks mentioned so far can be accomplished without leadership. Yet, an ongoing internal conflict in almost every academic organiza-

tion is the clash between faculty members, with their strong individual interests and highly developed sense of independence, and administrators with their own visions of the institution's collective purposes and potential. "We really need strong leadership," goes an old academic joke. "Let's make sure we don't get it!" Certain leaders are able to square this circle: those able to articulate a dimly perceived consensus, to include and activate community members who might otherwise be marginalized, and to motivate others by leading "from within," by example.

Andrea Bartoli comes to ICAR at a crucial moment in its evolution. He understands as well as anyone does that we are no typical academic institution. Fortunately, Andrea Bartoli is no typical leader. ■

“...he is an internationally renowned peacemaker with significant experience in resolving conflicts on four continents...”

—RICHARD RUBENSTEIN

Environmental Conflict Certificate

Continued from page 3

been director since 2000. With nearly 20 years of experience working on projects involving environment and land use, community development, education, and health, he combines on-the-ground experience with extensive research and publications. His book, *Resolving Public Conflict: Transforming Community and Governance* describes how public conflict resolution procedures can assist in vitalizing democracy. He is lead author of *Collaboration: A Guide for Environmental Advocates*, and with two colleagues, including ICAR Ph.D. John Stephens, is coauthor of *Reaching for Common Higher Ground*, which describes how diverse groups and communities can create expectations for addressing conflict with integrity, vision, and creativity.

Individuals in the Environmental Conflict Resolution and Collaboration program will develop a capacity to assess the strengths and weaknesses of collaborative processes while learning about best practices for preventing, preparing for, and addressing environmental conflict. They will focus on the strategic thinking that is required for assessing and designing appropriate collaborative processes. They will learn how to conduct a situation assessment and use criteria for determining which processes are appropriate for which situations. Finally, they will apply the theory and skill-building of course-work to real-life situations, drawn from issues they face in their own work or communities. ■

Zones of Peace Symposium

Continued from page 4

sity of the region and the presence of numerous historical and religious sites, Zones of Peace could also be formed as corridors to spaces of worship. Symposium participants, for example, considered what it would take to build a peace corridor that would allow Armenians to visit Mount Ararat.

Demilitarized buffer zones along the conflict areas can encourage the return of civilians to their homes and exchange in local markets. Cross-border cooperation fosters economic development, intergroup relationships, and grassroots cooperation.

Participants agreed that the concept of Zones of Peace provides diverse means of achieving a peaceful Caucasus, however, one must learn from the challenges of other regions and examples of Zones of Peace. The highly successful example of the development of the European Union only fifty years after WWII provides hope that one day there will be peace in the Caucasus.

Voice of America – Armenia interviewed Dr Susan Allen Nan and aired a program on the symposium in Armenian, which can be viewed at: (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwLM-sjOsu0>). ■



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Monitoring the 2009 Afghan Elections

By Agnieszka Paczynska, ICAR Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Director, apaczyns@gmu.edu

On August 20th, 2009 Afghanistan held presidential and provincial council elections. There were 41 presidential and over 3,300 provincial council candidates. Unlike the previous elections in 2004 and 2005 which were conducted under United Nations auspices, the Afghan Independent Election Commission (IEC) ran the 2009 contest with the UN in an advisory role. The elections took place against a backdrop of deteriorating security, intensifying insurgency and the growing disillusionment of the Afghan public with their government and the US and NATO/ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) forces.



Waiting for the vote to begin in Jalalabad. Photo: Agnieszka Paczynska.

The Obama administration viewed the elections' success as crucial in light of its new Afghanistan and Pakistan strategy. The administration saw strengthening Afghan state institutions, facilitating delivery of basic services to the Afghan population, and ensuring the rule of law as essential to turning around what increasingly seemed like a war the US

was losing. A newly elected government, seen as legitimate by the Afghan people, was a key to the implementation of this new policy. Thus, President Obama described the election, as "the most important event of the year" in Afghanistan. As the elections approached, however, few Afghans expressed confidence that the elections would be conducted honestly.

Among the first problems to emerge were those with the voter registry, including conflicting numbers of registered voters, with some provinces reporting many times higher numbers of registered voters than their estimated populations. Other provinces

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Unusual Pairs: CRDC Honors Kabawat

Citizen Diplomacy Highlighted at Film Screening

By Mike Giusti, ICAR M.S. Student, mgjusti1@gmu.edu,

network

On October 19th, The Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution (CRDC) will be presenting CRDC's first Citizen Diplomacy Award to CRDC Senior Associate, Hind Kabawat. In addition to recognizing Kabawat, there will be a screening of a film series entitled *Unusual Pairs: Friends Across the Divide*, directed by David Vyorst in partnership with the Fetzer Institute, which features Kabawat's and Gopin's pioneering work in Syria. The film takes an in-depth look at unique partners who have developed friendship and cooperation in working for peace across the Arab-Israeli divide, addresses issues surrounding their biographies, motivations, and how these characteristics can be instilled in others on a large scale basis.

The citizen diplomacy approach used in the film, and the subject of Dr. Gopin's latest book, *To Make the Earth Whole: The Art of Citizen Diplomacy in an Age of Religious Militancy* (Rowman Littlefield), has been largely overlooked. Hence, Gopin and Fetzer consider it a vital contemporary social need to spread the word by engaging the public in order to educate the world. The hope is to eventually establish a network of people committed to creating positive social change in a world embroiled in deadly conflict. Therefore, in an effort to assist the establishment of future partnerships and to build a reservoir of knowledge around positive social change, individuals are invited to share other stories



Hind Kabawat, the Grand Mufti of Syria, and Marc Gopin in Damascus. Photo: Marc Gopin.

of "unusual pairs" working across enemy lines.

Several distinguished guests will join CRDC to celebrate Ms. Kabawat's award and the film's release, and to hear Dr. Gopin read excerpts from his new book, which analyzes the past five years of his work with Kabawat in Syria. Ms. Kabawat will be on hand to describe the context of the film and respond to audience questions.

The ICAR community is invited to attend. Those wishing to join the celebration should RSVP by October 10th, 2009 to Fadwa Barinji: fbarzini@gmu.edu. ■

Aziz Abu Sarah, CRDC Director of Middle East Projects

By Mike Giusti, ICAR M.S. Student, mgjusti1@gmu.edu

This fall, The Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution (CRDC) proudly welcomed new Director of Middle East Projects, Aziz Abu Sarah. Before coming to CRDC, Abu Sarah, a Palestinian, born and raised in Jerusalem, was heavily involved in the Palestinian-Israeli peace movements. He has chaired an organization of Israeli and Palestinian bereaved families called The Parents Circle-Bereaved Families Forum, which works for reconciliation, co-hosted a bilingual radio show on Radio All for Peace in Jerusalem, and published articles in Haaretz, Alarabiya, The Daily Star and Middle East online-among others.

In addition to serving as a lecturer on issues surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Abu Sarah is collaborating with Dr. Marc Gopin and Scott Cooper on initiatives advancing a project entitled The Arab Jewish Alliance. Through mediums such as Citizen Diplomacy Tours to the Middle East and "Peace Steps"-a video podcast- his hope is to help "facilitate the transformation of people-to-people relationships in an effort to create a critical mass for social change in the Arab-Jewish relationship." Abu Sarah was recently awarded the Eliav-Sartawi Award for Journalism from Search for Common Ground and the Goldberg Award for peace in the Middle East from the International Institute for Education.

To learn more Abu Sarah, contact CRDC at crdc@gmu.edu or visit <http://crdc.gmu.edu> ■



Aziz Abu Sarah recording "Peace Steps." Photo: ICAR.

ICAR Undergrads Celebrate 5 Years: Looking Ahead With an Eye on Innovation

By Lori-Ann Stephensen, Editor and ICAR M.S. Student, lstephea@gmu.edu

As new director Agnieszka Paczynska settles in and with the move to the space in Northeast Module II accomplished, ICAR's Undergraduate Program is set to begin celebrating their 5th anniversary with an upcoming conference on *Youth in Post-Conflict Settings: Toward Healing, Justice, and Development*, a brown bag lecture series, and a new action initiative called *ICAR Serves*.

The conference is scheduled to convene October 30th from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm in Research I, Room 63 on the Fairfax campus. The ICAR community, including alumni is invited to attend. Helena Cobban, a veteran writer and researcher on global affair and the author of seven books, including her most recent entitled, *Re-engage! American and the World After Bush*, will be the keynote speaker. Cobban was a columnist for The Christian Science Monitor, and is currently the author of *Just World News*, a lively blog which focuses on international issues. Other speakers at the conference will include ICAR professors, Leslie Dwyer, Susan Hirsch, Patricia Maulden, Agnieszka Paczynska, and Sandra Cheldelin.

The topic of the conference is of special importance since so much of the literature on justice and peacebuilding in post-conflict settings focuses on adult needs and involvement, overlooking the impact of conflict on the young lives caught in the cross-fire. According to Dr. Paczynska, presenters at the conference will focus on "efforts to address the needs and interests of youth with respect to education, employment, trauma, economic reconstruction, reparations, transnational justice, civic participation, and health." The final session of the conference will include a facilitated brainstorming session to consider future directions for action and research.

The brown bag series, held at the Fairfax campus from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm every other Wednesday in Student Union 1, room A, began October 7th with Agnieszka Paczynska discussing the August 2009 Afghan elections. Upcoming speakers include: Dan Rothbart on the Sudan talks, Richard Rubenstein on why America goes to war, Patricia Maulden and Lisa Shaw on trainings conducted in Liberia in June 2009, Maneshka Eliatamby on internally displaced persons in Sri

Lanka, and Patricia Maulden on her research in Burundi.

The idea for *ICAR Serves* was developed to encourage students, staff, faculty and ICAR alumni to participate together in organized, ongoing service projects throughout the Northern Virginia and DC Metro area. According to Lisa Shaw, Undergraduate Student Services Coordinator, who conceived of the initiative, *ICAR Serves* is "a way of naming and becoming intentional about something that is already very much a part of the ICAR ethos." Shaw points to the Dialogue and Difference and Peer Mediation programs (which will now operate under the umbrella of *ICAR Serves*) as well as the various graduate-level working groups and APT projects as examples of ICAR service already in progress.

Part of ICAR's mission is to advance the understanding of deeply rooted conflicts between individuals, groups, organizations, and communities through research, teaching, practice, and outreach. *ICAR Serves* will support that mission by engaging in service projects that focus on the effects of poverty, social justice, youth and gender violence, environmental, refugee, religious, and community conflicts. Each project will be approached with a desire to be helpful and with a curiosity, informed by theoretical frameworks, that aims to understand the conditions and systems that generate and sustain cycles of conflict.

On October 17th *ICAR Serves* will sponsor its first project, partnering with Casey's Trees (<http://www.caseytrees.org>) from 9 am to 1 pm, to plant 18 trees at St. Paul's Rock Creek Cemetery. The next opportunity to serve together will be Friday, November 6th from 1 pm to 3 pm, when ICAR will team up with Food for Others (<http://www.foodforothers.org>), the largest direct provider of food in Northern Virginia. Food for Others provides assistance and a safety net for low-income individuals and families. During the Food for Others project participants will be asked to help to record incoming and outgoing food, sort and shelf products, and pack emergency boxes. Work on both projects involves some bending and lifting and volunteers should be sure to wear work clothes and closed-toed

“It will make us better people and it will make ICAR a better institution.”

—LISA SHAW

initiatives

Continued on Page 8

Rubenstein Rocks the Institute

As ICAR Welcomes 111 Incoming Graduate Students

By Lori-Ann Stephensen, Editor and ICAR M.S. Student, lstephea@gmu.edu

events



Professors Mara Schoeny and Susan Hirsch counsel incoming graduate students. Photo: ICAR.

The 2009-10 academic year got underway with a flurry of events geared toward both orienting and welcoming 29 Certificate, 63 Masters, and 19 Ph.D. students into the ICAR community.

Three separate orientations were held beginning with the Certificate program on August 19th and followed by the two-part orientation for incoming M.S. and Ph.D. students on August 22nd and 26th. For the first time a Faculty Mentoring Session, facilitated by Ph.D. coordinator, Sandy Cheldelin and M.S. coordinator Mark Goodale, was incorporated. Faculty members introduced themselves, speaking briefly about their research, their interests, and their areas of specialization, then met with their new advisees as a group. The evening provided a relaxing atmosphere for introductions and conversations about goals and expectations.

Other innovations in this year's M.S. and Ph.D. orientation included the addition of a "marketplace" where students gathered information about the various pro-

grams available at ICAR and on the Arlington campus. A panel of current M.S. and Ph.D. students also fielded questions from participants relating insights from their lived experience at ICAR. These additions to orientation received rave reviews in student feedback. ICAR Staff and Graduate Students in Conflict Studies (GSCS) leaders played a significant role in making the orientations a success and their contributions were greatly appreciated.

On September 12th ICAR hosted its annual Welcome Dinner featuring the inimitable Sandy Cheldelin as emcee and the musical styling's of Richard Rubenstein. Rich warmed the audience up with a sing-along and Sandy introduced the faculty through limerick (you had to be there to appreciate it)! Then Dan Rothbart introduced faculty members, Mark Goodale, Agnieszka Paczynska, and Susan Allen Nan who shared stories of adventures and misadventures in the field. The 2009-2010 Student Scholarship Recipients were awarded as follows: James H. Laue Scholarship to Jessica Gerrard and Kathryn



Rich Rubenstein leads a sing along. Photo: ICAR.

Crewe, the Brenda Rubenstein Memorial Scholarship to Benjamin Gaylord, the John Burton Scholarship to Mohammed Cherkaoui, the Alumni Scholarship to Lori-Ann Stephensen, the Faculty Scholarship to Saira Yamin, and the Mary Lynn Boland Award to Molly Tepper and Zoë Rose. Chris Mitchell also honored Dean Pruitt as ICAR's Distinguished Scholar in Residence. ICAR Director, Andrea Bartoli concluded the evening with a riotous recounting of his discovery of half & half and the community left with a smile and a new beginning. ■

Upcoming ICAR Community Events

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Tatsushi Arai

Creativity and Conflict Resolution

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Truland Building, 555

Saturday, October 17, 2009

ICAR Serves Project With Casey's Trees

9:00 am - 12:00 pm, St. Paul's Rock Creek Cemetery,
Contact & RSVP: Lisa Shaw, ishaw2@gmu.edu

Monday, October 19, 2009

CRDC Citizen Diplomacy Evening

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Truland Building, 555
Contact & RSVP: Fadwa Barzinji, fadwa.barzinji@gmail.com

Friday, October 30, 2009

ICAR Undergraduate Conference

Youth in Post-Conflict Settings: Toward Healing, Justice, and Development
9:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Research I, Room 63, Fairfax Campus

Friday, November 6, 2009

ICAR Serves Project With Food For Others

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Food For Others Headquarters
Contact & RSVP: Libby Thompson, ethomps4@gmu.edu

<http://icar.gmu.edu/events.htm>

Abandoning Missile Shield While Selling Missiles to Turkey

By Ali Erol, ICAR Alumnus, Ali.Erol@mail.house.gov

It all began with a quasi-historic decision made by the Obama administration on September 17th to abandon the missile shield program in Eastern Europe. This verdict is quite significant as Obama puts a sharp distinction between himself and Bush once more, taking a more diplomatic stance domestically and internationally. But scrapping the program, in CNN's terms, is important because of other issues, like Iran's long-range missile capacity.

While the international community looked on in awe, the US agreed to sell patriot missiles to Turkey for 7,8 billion dollars, indicating the threat the US perceives from Iran to analysts. Two regions: eastern Europe and Turkey, just a couple of hundreds of kilometers apart set the border between long and medium range missiles. Abandoning the program in Eastern Europe while selling 7,8 billion dollars of PAC-3's to Turkey means that the Obama administration is not expecting Iran's missiles to go beyond western Turkey.

This refreshing move has noteworthy implications for US-Russia relations. Right after the decision hit the news Russian President Medvedev hailed it as "positive" and Putin praised it as "correct and brave." It wasn't hard to notice the following developments: "U.S. and Russia discuss disarmament", "Russia halts missile deployment" (Al Jazeera) and finally "NATO Chief reaches out to Russia" (BBC).

Rasmussen's "reaching out" to Russia under the light of these developments is especially significant when one considers the recent G-20 summit. Perhaps Rasmussen and Obama were calculating this move's effect on Russia's support against Iran, maybe they weren't. This idea, however, cannot be overlooked simply because Israel's former defense secretary announced on September 16th that "if Western powers do not impose sanctions on Iran, Israel will have to attack by the end of the year" (Jerusalem Post).

Is the Obama administration secretly preparing for war to back up Israel and trying to gain Russia and NATO support? Or is this a part of a genius bluff against Iran? We will see the answer in just a couple of months. However, rather than employing the typical 'wait and see strategy,' peacemakers have an instinct and urgency to act upon such alarming situations. Assessing the situation objectively and planning a careful intervention is our modus operandi. But what can one do in this league where Obama, Putin and Rasmussen make decisions?

It would be unrealistic to hope to have a direct influence on foreign policy decisions that are carefully calculated and planned. In terms of international politics, there are just a couple of ways such a conflict can be averted. Either Iran will take the hint and work towards a peaceful middle ground in the October meetings or the US and NATO will back down from this bluff to discourage Israel and maybe Israel will be kind enough say "okay." These are areas we, peacemakers, don't have much access to.

A more sensible intervention, then, is to influence decision makers on either side of the issue, offering dialogue between Israelis and Iranians, running Track-2 problem solving workshops and carrying them to the media would certainly reduce support for aggressive actions.

The G-20 Summit and the Iran-P5+1 talks are opportunities to observe whether the issue is escalating or coming to a more amicable solution. It is important, however, to try to prevent actions which would have serious consequences for the Middle East and for the world. ■

Recent ICAR Articles, Op-Eds, Letters to the Editor, and Photos

Sorting Out Our Options in Afghanistan

By Dennis Sandole, ICAR Professor
Washington Post, 10/02/09

Wanted: Middle East Statesmen

By Roi Ben-Yehuda, ICAR
Ph.D. Student
Al Jazeera: Focus, 9/29/09

US Jews and Israelis Split on Obama

By Roi Ben-Yehuda, ICAR
Ph.D. Student
Al Jazeera.net, 9/22/09

A Toast For Peace

By Roi Ben-Yehuda, ICAR
Ph.D. Student
Haaretz, 9/18/09

Gacaca Courts in Rwanda: An Endogenous Approach to Post-Conflict Justice and Reconciliation

By Martha Mutisi, ICAR
Ph.D. Student
Africa Peace and Conflict Journal, 9/14/09

Inevitable US Policy Shift on Burma; Why and How?

By Min Za Oo, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate and Adjunct Faculty
Mizzima, 9/8/09

The Legacy of 9/11

By Rebecca Cataldi, ICAR M.S. Student
Search For Common Ground, 9/8/09

press

Zoë Rose, ICAR Alum and Interim Office Manager

By Mike Giusti, M.S. Student, mgiusti1@gmu.edu

This month the ICAR community will be losing Zoë Rose, a staff member who has been a fixture at ICAR for over a year. Zoë began working while she was in the Master's program as a graduate admissions assistant, where she helped Admissions Director Erin Ogilvie with student services and served as the face of ICAR as she represented the Institute at graduate fairs across the country. Most recently, Zoë has been the interim office manager while Amanda Martin is absent on maternity leave, managing operations on the Arlington Campus and at Point of View.

Academically, Zoë's interest initially revolved around international security and nuclear weapons in space. Perhaps an unusual topic, she found the issues to be quite relevant as space-faring nations were progressing in their ability to develop weapons and enter space. However, in her second year, she began volunteering with the Red Cross Disaster Action Team, and discovered her concern for the state of individuals after disasters in post-conflict environments. Fueled by her belief that "individuals should never suffer alone," Zoë "fed her desire to rebuild communities by helping individuals realize that the healing process is fundamental to their ability to regain hope and happiness."

Upon leaving ICAR, Zoë will be teaching English for three months to Buddhist Monks and children in Laos. Having never been to a developing region before, Zoë admits, "I am nervous and excited at the same time." Why Laos? "I happened to watch an episode with Anthony Bourdain on the travel network. In talking to a family, he exposed how the country is still riddled with thousands of undetonated mines and people who are deeply wounded."

During her time in Laos, Zoë hopes to speak with the emotionally and physically wounded and see how they are coping with the aftermath of the war. Using this time to grow as an individual and get out of her comfort zone, she trusts that this experience will be the foundation upon which she can base her future work as a researcher on disaster relief procedures. Personally, she would like to live and travel overseas to compliment her research while learning about and experiencing a variety of different cultures. ■



Zoë Rose. Photo: ICAR.

ICAR M.S. Student and Staff Member, Mike Giusti

By Zoë Rose, ICAR Alumna, zrose@gmu.edu

The beauty of ICAR lies in its diversity of interests. As a Masters student Mike Giusti is focusing on how mind-body medicine and mindfulness techniques can be applied to conflict resolution. He started developing an interest in spiritual, metaphysical, and holistic philosophies as a junior in college and recently became involved in the practice of mind-body medicine. When asked why, Giusti responded, "Because it is a field in which all of my interests converge as tools in helping people."



Mike Giusti. Photo: ICAR.

In today's fast paced world the whole individual is often overlooked. This fact necessitates the training of conflict resolution practitioners in mind-body medicine techniques. This is especially vital in post-conflict situations that involve trauma and devastation. As the physical, mental, and emotional sides of individuals are concerns for practitioners, so too is the spiritual side. Giusti believes that the field is lacking in mind-body approaches- with obvious exceptions- remarking

that, "there are a number of non-western conflict resolution models that involve holistic and integrative approaches around the stimulation of mind, body, and spirit. I feel the traditional western models are too cognitive and do not account for the more spiritual side of people."

Giusti recently attended a training program called 'Integrating Mind-Body Medicine into Clinical Practice, Medical Education and Trauma Healing.' The program was hosted by the Center for Mind-Body Medicine located in Washington, DC, which teaches professionals to manage their own stress and effectively incorporate these techniques into their work with clients.

The wealth of knowledge that Giusti has is crucial in keeping ICAR relevant in the field. Giusti states that "though ICAR itself has not actively pursued or advertised research of this kind as an institution, I have found many individuals who are interested in this kind of work."

In looking to the future, Giusti would like to raise awareness of this approach in the field through research and by using his position as a TA at GMU's Center for Consciousness and Transformation to build relationships and develop useful applications. Long term, he hopes to integrate his knowledge of these approaches as a professor or service oriented professional in the field. ■

Monitoring Afghan Elections

Continued from page 1



Agnieszka Paczynska is an Associate Professor at ICAR and Director of ICAR's Undergraduate Program .
Photo: Paczynska.

reported higher numbers of registered female than male voters in some of the most conservative areas of the country. Even with no reliable population data, such reports raised concerns about the validity and reliability of the registration rolls. Furthermore, there was much anecdotal evidence of registration cards being sold on street corners and of the supposedly indelible ink that was to mark voters' fingers once they cast their ballots washing off with readily available household chemicals.

There were other problems as well. In the months before the elections President Karzai struck deals with many local strongmen and tribal leaders to ensure that they would deliver the vote for him. There were also well-grounded charges by opposition candidates regarding unequal access to the media. Ensuring the full participation of women in the process, whether as candidates, election workers or voters also proved difficult. As the head of the IEC in Nangarhar Province told me, finding adequate number of female workers to staff female polling stations was hard because of many families' reluctance to allow women to work outside the home and because of the extremely high levels of illiteracy among Afghan women, more than 80 percent of whom are unable to read and write. Finally, the Taliban urged the public to boycott the vote,

threatened to attack polling stations on election day, and to cut off fingers marked with indelible ink.

Although these problems during the pre-election period were widely recognized, immediately following the closing of the polls, much of the international community seemed to sigh with relief. Despite fears that the Taliban would succeed in disrupting the elections, the voting went ahead in most districts of the country. Shortly after the polling centers closed, President Obama declared that "We had what appeared to be a successful election in Afghanistan." The UN Security Council and the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon likewise praised the elections. By mid-September the IEC was to officially certify the vote. If no presidential candidate won more than 50 percent of the vote, a second round of elections was to be held in early October to determine the winner.

The lack of security in many areas of the country and in particular in the south and the east had an impact on voter turnout and on the ability of independent groups to monitor the elections. In the end, about 32 percent of Afghans country-wide turned out to vote, probably a reflection of both voter fear and apathy. Security also affected the ability of observers to monitor the elections. In some of the more insecure areas, there were no domestic or international observers monitoring the vote. For instance, in Jalalabad where I observed the elections, there were domestic observer groups as well as international observers from various organizations. However, no one observed the vote in the eastern districts of Nangarhar province where the insurgency is the strongest. In other provinces, such as Paktika, Ghazni and Farah, international observers were unable to leave their

compounds at all on election day because of the security situation.

Within days of the elections charges of irregularities and fraud mounted. In early September, the Electoral Complaints Commission (EEC) announced that more than 2,000 complaints had been filed of which more than 650 the Commission deemed serious enough that if valid would affect the final result. And although a few days later, the IEC announced preliminary results from 91.6% of polling stations that gave 54.1% of the vote to President Karzai and 28.3% to his main challengers, Dr. Abdallah Abdallah, the likelihood that the election results would soon be certified soon was slim, given that the EEC ordered audits and recount of votes at 2,500 polling stations. By mid-September, the European Union announced that it estimated that 1.5 million votes cast, nearly one-fourth of the total, were "suspicious," with 1.1 million of those cast for President Karzai. At the same time, the UN mission to Afghanistan appeared increasingly

divided about how to respond to the growing political crisis.

It is not clear how this political crisis will unfold or how it will be resolved. Even before the elections the government of President Karzai was losing the public's support. If in the end he is declared a winner in the first

round, will this result be seen as legitimate by the Afghan public? If enough votes are tossed out as fraudulent and neither Karzai nor Abdullah have more than 50 percent of the vote thus forcing a second round, which given the harsh conditions of Afghan winters could be months away, what happens to the government in the interim? Will the possible political vacuum facilitate growing insurgency and increasing violence? A month after the elections there were few firm answers to these questions.

It is clear that the Obama administration is worried. As Admiral Michael Mullen acknowledged in his September confirmation hearings before the Senate Armed Services Committee, the lack of

“ Although much went wrong with the elections process in Afghanistan, some things went right. Many people chose to ignore the dangers and go out and vote. ”

—AGNIESZKA PACZYNSKA

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Monitoring Elections

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legitimacy of the government and the pervasive government corruption is right now a “threat every bit as significant as the Taliban.” Yet, the process of rooting out corruption and ensuring that the Afghan government is able to deliver basic services and security to the population is a long, not a short-term goal. Although the administration in September delivered the long-anticipated metrics to facilitate assessing policy progress in Afghanistan, it is too early to tell whether these will provide effective assessment tools or, if these tools will be effectively implemented. Also unclear is how long the Obama administration has to deliver on its promises in light of the dwindling public support for the war in Afghanistan.

Although much went wrong with the elections process in Afghanistan, some things went right. Many people chose to ignore the dangers and go out and vote. And, as I witnessed in Jalalabad, many were willing to serve as domestic observers and to put in long-hours at polling centers during the vote and the counting process. The actions of the EEC are also one of the bright spots in an otherwise difficult situation. As mandated, the Commission appears undeterred in its investigations of fraud and electoral irregularities. How these inquiries unfold and conclude, and how the outcome is perceived by the Afghan public will be crucial to the credibility of any future government. ■

Undergraduate Anniversary

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shoes.

Shaw anticipates that individual members and the ICAR community as a whole will realize multiple benefits as a result of participation in the program, including a satisfaction that comes from service, an increased understanding gained from direct exposure to the manifestations of conflict, and the cohesion that develops in groups that work together for overarching goals. One of Shaw’s hopes is that these projects will bring ICAR’s four distinct programs together as a more interactional whole, “It will make us better people and it will make ICAR a better institution.” For specific information on the upcoming conference, the brown bag series, and *ICAR Serves* projects, contact the Undergraduate office at 703-993-4165 or visit the website at <http://car.gmu.edu>. ■



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Darfur 2009: The Art of Peacebuilding in Siena

By Daniel Rothbart, ICAR Professor, drothbar@gmu.edu

The Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR) is actively engaged in peacebuilding efforts in response to the conflict in Darfur, a conflict that has left over 300,000 dead and two million people displaced from their homes since 2003. Such peacebuilding efforts constitute a core mission of the Institute, and were given a boost in July 2009 when 17 representatives from six armed movements involved in the conflict met in a neutral setting for a consultation aimed at promoting peace in this ravaged region. The movements represented were: the United Resistance Front, the United Revolutionary



Members of the Darfur consultation gather in a courtyard in Siena.
Photo: Rothbart.

Forces Front, the Sudan Liberation Movement-Unity Sudan Liberation Movement-Juba Unity, the Sudan Federal Democratic Alliance, and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLA-Wahid).

Three other groups actively engaged in the conflict chose not to attend, including the Justice Equality Movement.

The venue for this

consultation—a tranquil 13th century monastery outside of Siena, Italy—offered a stark contrast to the kind of devastation that Darfuris have experienced. The facilitators attending the consultation included Christopher Mitchell and Daniel Rothbart from ICAR, Ronald Fisher from American University, and Suliman Giddo from the Darfur Peace and Development Organization in Washington, D.C. Their work benefitted enormously from the contributions of graduate assistants Tres Thomas, Fatima Hadji, Ashad Sentongo, and Martha Mutisi. ICAR professor Wallace Warfield provided expert guidance in the

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Kevin Avruch Appointed as Rice Chair: His Vision For Point of View

By Nawal Rajeh, ICAR M.S. Student, nrajeh@gmu.edu

network

At the beginning of the 2009-10 academic year, the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution named Dr. Kevin Avruch the new Henry Hart Rice Chair.

ICAR's Rice Chair, carries a three-year term with a mandate to oversee the development of academic programming and the study of conflict resolution practice at Point of View (POV), ICAR's research, retreat, and conference center. POV is situated on 40 acres of pristine nature, secluded on idyllic Belmont Bay, in Mason Neck, Virginia.

The center, which is located just 25 miles south of Washington D.C., was a gift from the Lynch family. While expectations for the future are that POV will become an internationally renowned center for research and conflict resolution, it was always Edwin and Helen Lynch's hope that their home would simply "be used as an instrument to help people resolve differences and work through disputes in a secluded and restful environment."

The Rice Chair was endowed by Ed Rice in of honor his father, Henry Hart Rice. The Rice and Lynch families were close friends. The endowment for the Rice Chair is also a gift to ICAR to help expand the work of POV.

Dr. Kevin Avruch, who was a member of ICAR's original faculty advisory group in 1981, is an internationally recognized anthropologist and a pioneer in the development of theory and practice relating to cross cultural approaches to conflict resolution, as well as issues of ethnicity, nationalism, negotiation, and mediation. He has published more than 50 articles and essays and is the author/editor of several books.

Last year Dr. Avruch served as the Joan B. Kroc Peace Scholar at the University of San Diego, where he lent his expertise as a consultant, in addition to teaching. This spring, he will teach "Approaches to Violence," which explores levels of violence, from interpersonal to international, considering its roots and sources as well as approaches to intervention.

Dr. Avruch sees his appointment as Rice Chair as abounding with opportunities. "It's a very exciting chance to help guide POV to fulfill its potential and achieve the dreams of Ed and Helen Lynch and their family and the vision they had." He also sees it as an opportunity to help foster the vision of his colleagues at ICAR and invest the energy that will centrally locate POV on the conflict and peace studies map, building on the current momentum.

As part of his Rice responsibilities, Avruch chairs POV's Academic Committee, which sets

academic policy for the center and consists of both ICAR and non-ICAR GMU faculty. Current committee members are: Andrea Bartoli, Susan Allen Nan, Peter Mandaville (from GMU's Public and International Affairs Center for Global Studies), Chris Mitchell, Jeremy Peizer, and Jamie Price.

Over the years, ICAR has hosted a variety of events at POV, including conferences on various topics, monthly advanced theory seminars for Ph.D. students, workshops, classes, and ICAR community gatherings. ICAR also provides a reflective space where its students can work on research, presentations, and dissertations. In the future, activities that incorporate theory-building and practice in the form of problem solving workshops, conferences, retreats, and classes, will all be part of POV's offerings.

While ICAR already enjoys broad national and international recognition, the development of POV is seen as a chance to enhance and add to the field so that others will benefit from its programs and natural setting. In its next phase of development, (POV will soon undergo major expansive construction), Avruch forecasts POV as a place where other universities and organizations will also benefit from its use. He points out that "It is essentially a place for the whole community."

Dr. Avruch encourages ICAR students who have not yet had the chance to visit POV, to take advantage of every opportunity to do so. He believes that, "the name itself really tells a lot about the ambiance. It is a wonderful place to get away from the daily hustle of Washington and think through matters of peace and conflict."

According to Dr. Avruch, "POV is a place where research, theory, and practice will come together, reflecting ICAR's long term commitment to reflective practice and the development of theory and of the conflict resolution field." ■



Kevin Avruch is a Professor of conflict resolution at ICAR. Photo: GMU Creative Services.

ICAR Working Groups: Emerging Applications of Theory and Practice

By Lori-Ann Stephensen, Editor and ICAR M.S. Student, lstephea@gmu.edu

While the idea of working groups at ICAR is not a new one, the initiatives and outcomes they produce are always dynamic as new groups form around diverse topics and are infused with the energy and input of each incoming cohort. Though their particular emphases vary, each working group shares the same genesis: two or more minds coming together with a desire to know more and to do something with that knowledge. ICAR's working groups are open to all members of the ICAR community including faculty, staff, alumni, and students from each of the four programs. The range of possibilities for new groups is bounded only by the imagination and drive of the collective community. An overview of some of ICAR's current working groups illustrate their potential:

The Africa Working Group (AWG), which has been ongoing for sometime at ICAR, is comprised of a group of practitioners, students, academics, and alumni who seek to foster an in-depth understanding of conflict, peace, justice, and sustainable development in Africa—providing opportunities for learning and action. Activities this past year include an African Dinner featuring speakers on conflict resolution as well as delicious regional cuisine. Dr. Wallace Warfield was honored at the event for his years of dedication as AWG's sponsor. AWG also co-hosted an event with the Office of Sexual Assault Service addressing sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In addition, AWG organized a panel discussion on the roots of militant Islam in Somalia, which featured ICAR professors Terrence Lyons, Wallace Warfield, Jamie Price, and AWG co-President Hussein Yusuf. New members were welcomed at AWG's annual retreat at Point of View



Members of the Africa Working Group gather at a recent event at Point of View. Photo: AWG.

in September, which featured Steve MacDonald, from the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, as the guest speaker.

The Consultancy Working Group was newly formed this semester to establish Conflict Resolution Consulting, for the purpose of explicitly branding conflict resolution practitioners as consultants and in an effort to help organizations improve their performance, through the analysis of existing conflicts and the development of plans for improvement and resolution. The group's efforts will be geared toward establishing "best practices" relating to organizational change, management assistance, coaching skills, and strategy development, in order to deliver acceptable outcomes to its clientele. This working group is undertaking a proactive approach at ICAR by offering students, faculty, and alumni an opportunity to rebrand conflict resolution within a profitable business model that merges academic and practical elements into a unified organizational structure and promote credibility for the field.

ICAR's Gender and Conflict Working Group, under the advisement of Dr. Sandra Cheldelin, is comprised of a team of faculty and students interested in the intersection of gender and social conflict. Their passion centers on raising awareness of gendered issues and developing a research portal aimed at educating the public on a variety of issues. Various topic specific committees have been formed within the group, including but not limited to: gender and culture, women and grassroots peacebuilding, gender and empowerment, gender and violence, gender mainstreaming, girls and conflicts, human rights, statistics, gender and sexuality, and globalization—as well as developing an educational training tool on gender-based issues. As gender underlies worldwide struggles, regional foci will include Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Americas.

The potential for synergism and evolution in ICAR's working groups initiative is illustrated by the current collaboration between the Gender and Conflict Working Group and the Africa Working Group as they prepare to co-host a Women and Peacebuilding roundtable in early February. Other active working groups at ICAR include Consciousness and Conflict Resolution, Public Policy, Languages, Grant Writing, and Terrorism. Contact information and updates for each of the groups is available at icarcommunity.ning.com. New members are always welcome and new groups are always only an idea away. ■

initiatives

TE'A Presents "Under The Veil"

ICAR Alumna & Co. Transform Conflict Through Theater

By Fareeha Khan, ICAR Undergraduate Student and Alumni Outreach Intern, fkhano@gmu.edu

events

ICAR Alumna, Radha Kramer works as grassroots organizer committed to addressing the conflicts in America's backyard. Theatre, Engagement, and Action (TE'A), the organization she founded in 2008, has recently expanded from its birthplace in New York City to Washington D.C. TE'A is the product of a creative partnership between Radha Productions and Intersections International. Its mission is "to build peace by using interactive theatre to cross the barriers of race, class, culture, and religion that separate and divide Americans from each other." Through TE'A, Kramer uses art to explore social conflicts. Using either a university-based model or a community-based model, TE'A uses interactive theatre and cutting edge conflict transformation techniques to study relevant issues and create material for theatrical performance. Her passion for the project is evident as she talks about it. Often the focus is on topics that the public finds hard to talk about. "When people fear something that means they care about it," Kramer says. "That's why it is important to talk about those fears." Her experience at ICAR has enabled her to be an effective facilitator as she engages audiences in the expression of identity through discussion.

On November 19th, TE'A performed "Under the Veil: Being Muslim (and Non-Muslim) in America Post 9/11" at the Arlington campus. As the title indicates, the short play explored the complexity of the human experience of Americans, particularly Muslim Americans, after the towers fell. The script, written by the troupe, was an artistic interpretation of lived experience gathered from interviews and observations leaving the audience with a sense of having experienced "the really real" and a space in which to consider their own experience. That space was expanded through a facilitated

debriefing with the audience. TE'A purposefully structures projects to stimulate honest and meaningful conversation. According to Kramer, "There is no conflict resolution but there is conflict transformation." Her experience traveling and studying

conflicts with a Masters in public policy and in conflict resolution from ICAR, with the Peace Corps in the South Pacific, and a GMU study abroad trip to Israel, has provided her with an important scope on the dynamics of community. Kramer hopes

to take TE'A throughout the country and continue her focus on transformation surrounding current conflict laden issues in America.

At the conclusion of the performance on Thursday evening Kramer announced that TE'A will begin the formation of a new troupe, incorporating the ICAR community in exploring new topics and tensions from human experience. Anyone interested in participating in the project should contact Rhada Kramer at radha@teaproject.com.

Everyone in the ICAR community should treat themselves to a visit to the TE'A website (teaproject.com) for clips of performances and background on the Under the Veil project as well as webcasts on various issues. TE'A's most recent video on headscarves has already inspired many viewers to express their opinions on Facebook. ■



TE'A founder and ICAR Alumna, Radha Kramer. Photo: TE'A.



TE'A Players Left to Right: Christa Quallo, Christian De Gre', Chuck Obasa, Ashley Williams, Felipe Aguilar IV. Photo: TE'A.

Upcoming ICAR Community Events

Thursday, December 3, 2009

GSCS Townhall Meeting

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Trueland Building, 555
Contact: Melanie Smith, msmir@gmu.edu

Thursday, December 17, 2009

ICAR Holiday Party

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm, Point of View
Contact: Erin Martz, emartz@gmu.edu

<http://icar.gmu.edu/events.htm>

Turkey-Armenia Protocols Signed: Understanding the Existential Concerns From the Armenian Side

By Margarita Tadevosyan, M.S. Student, Peace Operations Policy, mtadevos@gmu.edu and Tamar Palandjian, M.S. Student, Conflict Analysis and Resolution, tpalandj@gmu.edu

Armenia and Turkey signed protocols on the normalization of relations on 10/10/09. Reaction from Armenians throughout the world ranged from opposition, “demanding justice, not protocols,” to support and a belief that it is the only resolution to the conflict. Following the signing of the protocols, Armenia’s President Serge Sargsyan said, “And let no one ignore the fact that, contrary to any slogans, the Armenian nation is united in its goals and is strong with its sons and daughters. And let no one try to split Armenia and our brothers and sisters in the Diaspora in presenting their concern over the future of Armenia as an attempt to impose something on the Republic Armenia.” In fact, it’s false that there is no resistance on this issue within Armenia and the Diaspora.

There are serious rifts over the protocols and Armenians and Diasporans’ concerns are based on different issues. For Armenians living in Armenia, the concern is about how the protocols will impact the Nagorno Karabakh conflict while Diasporans’ concern is about the restoration of historical justices. Representing both the Diaspora and Armenia, we share these concerns with the hope that it will lay the groundwork for dialogue between these communities.

The modern history of independent Armenia started with war over Nagorno Karabakh and its unresolved status continues to influence social and political life in the country. Genocide recognition, while an important element of identity in Armenia, is subordinate to more pressing issues such as Nagorno Karabakh. Most Armenian citizens have strong memories of the war and understand that the unresolved Nagorno Karabakh conflict can go either way. The situation is further complicated with the recent legitimacy crisis facing the country’s unpopular leadership. Many people see protocols as another tool to be used against Armenians in determining the future of Nagorno-Karabakh – the only real victory Armenia has had since medieval times. All of these factors make Armenians not only distrustful of the protocols, but also concerned about the country’s future.

For a Diasporan, the Genocide and seeking Turkish recognition of what happened in 1915 is at the core of one’s identity. Any threat to obtain recognition is seen as an attack to one’s identity. Thus, for Armenian Diasporans, the formation of a historical commission as a part of the protocols could potentially question the Armenian Genocide as a historical fact. For that reason, there has been an intense and emotional reaction from the Diaspora, which has even caused some people to call President Sargsyan a “traitor” and “Turk.” The concern with the historical commission is that in the end, Turkey will have its way and force Armenia to retract from the use of the word genocide.

Obviously, there is a contrast of opinions within the Armenian side. Whether protocols are ratified or not, these concerns are raised in both communities. Moving forward, there is a need for further discussion and dialogue amongst Armenians throughout the world on the differences that exist in reality and not seek artificial unity through an overarching concept of “Armenianness.” Only through dialogue will the Armenian side begin to understand its own internal existential concerns, preventing further division as the protocol process moves forward. ■

Recent ICAR Articles, Op-Eds, Letters to the Editor

Redefining the "Jewish" in Jewish State

By Marc Gopin, ICAR Professor
Common Ground News Service, 11/12/09

What Can Palestinians Learn From the American Civil Rights Movement?

By Aziz Abu Sarah, CRDC Director of Middle East Projects
Common Ground News Service, 11/12/09

The Search for the 'Why' of Fort Hood

By Paul Snodgrass, ICAR M.S. Alumnus
New York Times, 11/11/09

Enemy-centric Approach in Pakistan Doesn't Work

By Lisa Shirsch, ICAR M.S. Alumna and Saira Yamin, ICAR Ph.D. Candidate
Common Ground News Service, 11/10/09

EU Threat Has Inspired Panic Rather Than Reform

By Carrie Chomui, ICAR M.S. Student
Financial Times, 11/05/09

Can J Street Sideline AIPAC?

By Roi Ben-Yehuda, ICAR Ph.D. Student
Al Jazeera, 11/04/09

Failure on Three Fronts

By Masanobu Yonemitsu, ICAR M.S. Alumnus
European Voice, 10/29/09

Bosnian Serbs Spurn EU Carrot

By Masanobu Yonemitsu, ICAR M.S. Alumnus
The Guardian, 10/20/09

Should Palestinians Accept Israel as a Jewish State?

By Roi Ben-Yehuda, ICAR Ph.D. Student and Aziz Abu Sarah, CRDC Director of Middle East Projects
Haaretz, 10/12/09

press

Wallace Warfield Honored As ACR Bestows Lifetime Contribution Award

By Mara Schoeny, ICAR Assistant Professor and Certificate Program Director, mschoeny@gmu.edu

icar spotlight

When the Association for Conflict Resolution gathered in Atlanta, Georgia, from October 7-10 for its 9th annual conference, Wallace Warfield was invited to be the keynote speaker. His address, "Challenging Conventional Identities," was offered in response to the conference theme: "Convening the 'Whole of Community': Integrating Approaches & Practices to Address Conflict in a Chaotic World." At the conclusion of his remarks, Warfield engaged a panel of conflict resolution experts, Robert Benjamin, Homer C. LaRue, and Joyce Neu, in a discussion of current issues and future directions for the field. Then the floor was opened to conference attendees for Q&A.

Two significant events occurred that morning, in what could otherwise be considered standard fare for the opening session of a conference: First, the substance of Warfield's message issued a challenge for the field to reflect on its own identity and relevance to the full range of complex and persistent conflicts. Second, Warfield was presented with a Lifetime Contribution Award.

ACR's Rachel Barbour presented the award saying, "I concluded last night that the English language is inadequate," [as a medium for expressing the breadth of his contribution]... "As a conflict resolver you have positively impacted so many lives at all levels of society from the streets of New York to the countries of Liberia and Columbia. You have changed the structures of our government from local agencies dealing with ethnic and racial conflict to the creation of new dispute resolution processes



Pictured from Left to Right: Robert Benjamin, Rachel Barbour, Wallace Warfield, Joyce Neu, Homer LaRue. Photo: ACR.

in the federal sector. Your gift to the field has also been your tireless mentoring of a new generation of reflective practitioners and scholars who continue to shape and grow our field. For this, we at the Association of Conflict Resolution honor you and thank you."

Faced with the task of writing about the award for this newsletter, I can appreciate Barbour's difficulty in finding words to fully express Dr. Warfield's many contributions to the field of conflict resolution, as well as to my own learning. His long career reflects a commitment to leadership, ethics, reflective practice, community, and going to the difficult conversations. As his student, I benefited immeasurably from his mentoring and as a colleague I

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Bravo Erica! Welcome Erin Martz, New Events Coordinator

By Lori-Ann Stephensen, Editor and ICAR M.S. Student, lstephea@gmu.edu



Erica Soren. Photo: ICAR.

ICAR's Open House, held November 12th, signaled a seamless transition in the Events Coordinator position as Erica Soren leaves to prepare for her December graduation from the Masters program and her upcoming marriage and Erin Martz steps in to fill her shoes. Soren has provided the magic (and the muscle) behind ICAR events, including Orientation, the Welcome Dinner, and the Lynch Lecture since she joined the staff as a student worker last year. Erin Martz, is an ICAR Certificate student with two Masters degrees. Martz also teaches at Nova Community College. If Thursday's Open House was any indication, the ICAR community will continue to benefit from the legacy of Soren's flair as it enjoys Martz's panache. Bravo Erica! Welcome Erin! ■



Erin Martz. Photo: ICAR.

The Art of Peacebuilding in Siena

Continued from page 1

months preceding and following the consultation, which also benefited from analysis and advice provided by a “second circle” of Darfur scholars and other experts who are engaged in the issue on a regular basis.

Designed as a problem-solving workshop, the objectives of the consultation were:

- To open new channels of dialogue among the factions of the Darfur movement
- To establish a forum for solidifying harmonious relations among these factions
- To develop a strategy for negotiating with all parties in the conflict
- To recognize that the differences among the Darfuri factions should not be used to undermine the commitment to peace.

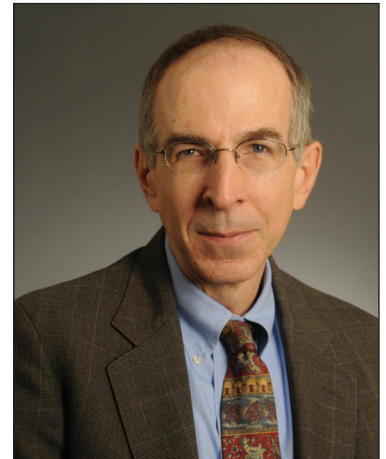
Throughout the course of the conference, the facilitators revised the designs and plans in real time, as critical breakthroughs emerged in the process. In effect, the participants began to take control of the consultative process itself, affirming in practice their commitment to work together for a common purpose and to build harmonious relationships. By the end of day two, the original design was reimaged in ways that enabled participants to work efficiently towards formulating their position statement.

Recognizing the importance of these objectives, the participants actively engaged in constructive dialogue on the conflict's root causes, the sources of fragmentation among the armed movements, and a shared vision for a future Darfur and Sudan. Participants paid careful attention to fundamental questions that are often ignored in discussions by actors engaged in the immediacy of events on the ground. In effect, the consultation participants exhibited skills that we in the field attribute to reflective practitioners—probing deep into analytical and normative questions that lie submerged beneath the empirical questions about events, statements, and policies. Such skills also include reflection on presuppositions of group actions, beliefs, and strategies. As an example, one question that was formulated focused on how, exactly, to define a movement given the amorphous character of the

groups and their frequent fragmentation. Another moment of critical reflection centered on how the question of how to prioritize the known causes of violence in explanations of the conflict—or how to provide a comparative evaluation of the problems of marginalization of Darfuris versus those of land reform.

Behind the scenes the participants deliberated into the night about past grievances, accusations, and apologies. These dual modes of dialogue (by day and by night) operated to mutual effect, as the sequence of events in the daytime problem-solving workshops intertwined with the labor of reconciliation at night. Such private exchanges were fostered by Suliman Giddo who had developed personal relationships with some of the participants, which enabled him to wade through the twists and turns of many tense conversations.

In the end, the partnership between the consultants and the participants was fruitful, yielding important results. The participants crafted a position statement that represented a bold commitment to seek a harmonious relationship among the various movements. With their unanimous assent to the Siena statement, the participants, in effect, renounced the use of violence as a means of settling disputes and accepted the necessity of establishing a common platform in preparation for the negotiations with the Government of Sudan. The Siena consultation complements the work of official negotiations currently underway by providing an unofficial forum for dialogue and analysis that can be used to increase understanding and build relationships among the parties. ■



Dan Rothbart is a Professor at ICAR.
Photo: GMU Creative Services.

What's New at the John Burton Library

By Jay Filipi, ICAR M.S. Student and John Burton Librarian, jfilipi@gmu.edu

The John Burton Library, located on the 6th floor of the Truland building is pleased to welcome Jay Filipi to our library staff, joining Molly Tepper, Librarian and Anand Rao, Technology Assistant. In addition to assisting with library and resource needs, Jay will provide support for ICAR's website by producing and editing video content as well as tracking and sharing ICAR publications. ICAR's librarians are also available to assist with document scanning, transcription, and other technological services.

Gretchen Reynolds, the ICAR and Social Work Liason Librarian from the Arlington Campus Library is now holding office hours at the John Burton Library. Anyone needing assistance or having questions relating to research is encouraged to schedule an appointment. Her office hours are: Mondays, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Gretchen can be reached at greynol3@gmu.edu.

Please keep an eye out for the upcoming writing seminar series, "Beyond 'Now What?'" designed to help students with a variety of academic and field-oriented writing styles. Proposed topics for the seminars include: grant writing, journal writing, writing for the media, and writing (and presenting at) academic conferences. ■

Warfield's Lifetime Contribution Award

Continued from page 6

continue to learn from and be challenged by his insights. The following list is by no means complete, but perhaps begins the task of tracing his influence in my own practice and scholarship:

- Learn everyone's name. Right from the start. It is a sign of respect and recognition that we do not work with "parties" and "interests" but with people.

- Jazz is a useful metaphor for conflict resolution. Both are patterned as well as improvisational. A musical score or conflict resolution process is a starting point, one that anchors individual interpretations as well as emerging conversations. As he observed in the keynote, intervenors are parties too and the field suffers when processes and identities become too reified. Any new conflict or intervention is neither wholly exceptional nor wholly conventional.

- When in doubt, ask. An emphasis on reflective practice stems in part from the recognition that people often know more than they realize, as well as from a recognition that communities in conflict develop hard won insights and wisdom. Parties must do most of the hardest work, requiring humility on the part of intervenors with regard to their own influence, presence and impact.

- Vision and values matter. Seeds of outcomes are buried in the process, and seeds of the process are found in outcomes, as well as the conditions of the setting. Too often in

the field when discussing the intersection of practice and assessment we are stymied within a false debate about process versus outcomes. In the hands of a seasoned practitioner, such a dichotomy does not exist—the two are inextricably intertwined. Throughout his long career Dr. Warfield has reminded us that vision and values matter in conflict resolution and that those who would offer help need to consider the deeper ethics and implications of their practice, while finding ways to engage with immediate as well as deeper concerns.

- Teaching isn't telling. Experience, practice and reflection are essential for learning how to work with conflict. While he might inspire with a compelling story or diagram, the implications of a key theory, in the end what is asked of students is trying it out. Along the way, students might learn as much from reflecting on an experience as a party as one where they were attempting to be helpful.

Wallace Warfield's long career reflects a commitment to leadership, ethics, reflective practice, community, and going to the difficult conversations. His keynote last month was a challenge, a call for the field to examine its assumptions, relevance, and effectiveness. But it was also a call to community, for shared learning and reflection in order to be of better service to those facing increasingly complex and persistent conflicts. He's given us some important homework. ■



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