

Fall 10-1-2010

# October 2010

Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution

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# Monthly Connections

Nova Southeastern University

October 2010

*a message from your associate chair . . .*



Dear student and colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to all of you who worked hard to make of this Fall Residential Institute a big success. The work and dedication of our administrators, staff and our student GAs was evident throughout the five days of RI. It was great to see many new faces among our online student body coming together and sharing classes, lectures, the keynote speaker presentation, and student activities. One of the objectives of RI is to help online students build a learning community, and I am confident that this RI was a catalyst for helping students reach that goal.

As you witnessed during RI, we have several DCAR working groups, all of them have passionate faculty members and students that believe what they do can make a difference in our field. If you are not part of any of these working groups, I urge you to learn more about each of them and explore the possibility of becoming an active member.

As our Chair had indicated in our previous Newsletter, exciting changes are happening in DCAR. This year our PhD program will be assessed by the University Academic Review Committee, which gives DCAR's faculty and administration the opportunity to reflect, think critically, and plan changes that can not only improve our program but make it the best in the field. Parallel to this university effort, DCAR's curriculum committee is also undergoing a review of our PhD curriculum. We believe our students are the most important stakeholders in this process and, as such, you should be included in all steps of the evaluation process. This is why it is so important that you take few minutes and respond to the DCAR curriculum survey that was sent out October 7, 2010. The results will be gathered by Marci Arango [marango@nova.edu](mailto:marango@nova.edu) from our Admissions Office and DCAR curriculum committee will only get the unidentified surveys. We are confident that we will get a high response rate because we know you are highly invested in this process!

Finally, as Associate Chair of DCAR I have made one of my priorities to reach out to our student body and serve as an advocate for students. If you have questions about the program, courses or any academic issue please do not hesitate to contact me. My extension is 23021, if you cannot get hold of me, please call Andrea Cevallos at extension 23034 and she can schedule an appointment.

Looking forward to hearing from you!  
Elena

## Upcoming Events

**October 13**  
**4:00 - 5:45 pm**  
Sergio Delgado  
Director, Federal  
Mediation and  
Conciliation Service  
**Maltz Rm, 2057**

**October 13**  
*Curriculum Survey*  
Please return your  
survey to  
[marango@nova.edu](mailto:marango@nova.edu)

**Nov. 4 & 5**  
**8:30 am - 4:00 pm**  
*Violence Knows No  
Boundries Conference*  
Nova Main Campus  
Commons Residence Hall  
<http://nsubso.nova.edu/conference/index.html>

## Name our Newsletter

Monthly Connections is the temporary name of our newsletter. We need your help! Help us come up with a catchy, clever, and fun name. Please e-mail entries to [hw199@nova.edu](mailto:hw199@nova.edu) by Oct. 26, 2010. The winning name will be announced during RI. The creator of the winning entry wins lunch during RI with Dr. Katz and Dr. Bastidas!

# Fall 2010 Residential Institute - Fun, Learning, and Comaraderie



## Working Groups

The Asia Working Group kicked off RI with a panel presentation. The event was attended by more than 30 people including several professors and Dean Yang. The group got the opportunity to highlight different perspectives on conflict in Asia. The group is also working on developing a journal. If you are interested in joining the working group, please email [asiaworkinggroup@gmail.com](mailto:asiaworkinggroup@gmail.com).

Many other working groups met during RI including the African Peace and Conflict Network, the Islamic Awareness group and the new Peace education group. Working groups provide an opportunity for students to develop skills that can have an impact on our world. If you are interested in joining one of the groups, please contact [hw199@nova.edu](mailto:hw199@nova.edu) for further information.

## Speakers

The department was treated to a rivoting keynote address by Christine Merchant this year. Merchant is an award winning author and scholar. Her speech provided encouragement to students that there is a wide range of opportunity available upon graduation. Bob Hill of the Congoparresource.org presented on the conflict in the Congo. He provided a unique perspective into the Congo conflict.

## Classes

Online classes provide convenience, but they often lack a . . . personal touch. This year, students got the opportunity to meet with professors and students and build meaningful relationships. The classes offered new dynamics of interaction and learning. More than the classes, student had the opportunity to meet with one another and build the types of friendships that will last a lifetime. From attending working groups, to keynote addresses, to eating lunch in the student center, students engaged in conversation and meaningful relationship building. As with every RI, students embraced one another and learned together.

## New Consulting Opportunity

Conflict Resolution Consulting and Training Group (CRCTG) under the leadership of Chair and Professor Neil Katz has contracted for some exciting possibilities this Fall for Dr. Katz and his student associates. On campus, in conjunction with the Office of Human Resources, Katz and his colleagues are doing 3 workshops on "Supervisory Mediation as a Leadership Tool" and "the Power of Interest-based Negotiations." Katz and colleagues are also contracted for training in Negotiations for a school district in Rochester, New York, workshops on Emotional Intelligence, Negotiation, and Conflict Styles with the National Forum for Black Public Administrators in Syracuse, New York, and workshops in Conflict Resolution and Managerial Mediation in Houston Texas. Residential students interested in CRCTG should contact Andrea Cevallos to get on the CRCTG listserv.

## Faculty Profile

### Dustin Berna, Ph.D

Dustin Berna, a political scientist by education, teaches conflict analysis and resolution. While not formally trained in CAR, he brings his international policy experience to the table and imparts invaluable knowledge to his students about theory, critical thinking, research, and public policy. His elive sessions are particularly lively as he employs the socratic teaching method and encourages interaction between students and between himself and students. Berna graduated from the University of New Orleans with a PhD in 2008 (and New Orleans will always hold a piece of his heart). He also holds two Master's degrees in Political Science and History education. Sticking with his theme of doing things in pairs, he also hold two Bachelor's degrees: one in English Literature and one in Political Science. His research focus is the Middle East and specifically Islamic Fundamentalism. Berna is also an avid art collector and loves to attend auctions. He is a voracious reader and enjoys movies.



## Student Profile

### Lisa Witzler

Lisa Witzler is currently an intern in the Office of the Ombudsman/Center for Cooperative Resolution at the National Institutes of Health in Washington, DC. Prior to relocating to DC, Ms. Witzler was the Program & Web Coordinator at the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School where she helped launch their new website and assisted in teaching negotiation workshops. She holds a Master's of Arts degree in dispute resolution from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in peace studies and education from Colgate University. She has traveled throughout Northern Europe and has studied at the European Peace University in Austria. Ms. Witzler has consulted for organizations and courses on conflict within organizations. She has presented at several international conferences including the International Ombudsman Association Annual Conference and the University of Massachusetts Dispute Resolution Conference. Her research interests include cross-cultural conflict, organizational disputes and the role of women in peacemaking.



## Alumni Focus

### Noel Minor

Noel Minor is the president of Linke Mediation, Inc and is certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a circuit Civil, County, and Family mediator. She holds a Master of Science degree in Dispute Resolution from Nova Southeastern University and has been mediating and facilitating since 1997. She has more than 20 years experience as a legal professional and has been involved in mediation since 1991. She was awarded the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Along with her certifications, she has been a mediator with the United States Department of Justice, Key Bridge Foundation dealing with the American Disabilities Act; the United States Postal Service; the E.E.O.C; the Federal Emergency Management Agency. She has also worked as a Florida Bar Grievance Mediation Program mediator and as a mediator for foreclosures. In addition to her many mediation duties, she is an adjunct professor at Palm Beach State College.

Noel has distinguished her self in the community and her degree from Nova has proven an invaluable resource. She is a shining example of the careers available to graduates.



## Publications/Presentations

Gregory Vecchi, PhD, adjunct professor will be presenting November 5th as part of the partnership between the Broward County Sheriff's Office and Nova Southeastern University. The conference will provide CEU's. For more information visit <http://nsubso.nova.edu/conference/index.html>

Hawkins, Steven & Georgakopolous, Alexia (2010). "Dramatic Problem Solving: Transforming Community Conflict Through Performance in Costa Rica" *Journal of Alternative Perspectives in the Social Sciences* (2010) Vol 2, No 1, 112-135.

The *Journal of Asia Conflict Resolution* is now accepting submissions that deal with topics affecting Asia. Please send submissions to [journalacr@gmail.com](mailto:journalacr@gmail.com)

Heather Wellman, Amy Guimond, Kacey Sharp, Grace Okoye, and Lauren Marx are presenting at the University of Massachusetts Dispute Resolution Conference October 20-22.

**If you are published or are presenting a paper, please let us know so we can add it to our next newsletter.**