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Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution

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Monthly Connections

Nova Southeastern University

September 2010



a message from your chair . . .

Times, They are a Changin'

No, I am not going to impersonate Bob Dylan (thankfully for you!) but I do want you to know about some important new initiatives and invite you to come along on the DCAR enhancement journey with us. As I have stated several times, what coaxed me out of semi-retirement and a wonderful life at Syracuse University and my consulting practice was a compelling vision of what DCAR could become in the next step toward academic excellence and a greater sense of pride in being a member of the DCAR community. To that end, I and my faculty, staff and administrative colleagues have instituted some new changes and are considering several more. Changes already implemented:

- 1) A new graduate certificate in "Advanced Conflict Resolution Practice" consisting of 15 credit hours in applied classes such as human factors, mediation, facilitation, negotiation and organizational conflict. Upon excellent performance, participants in the certificate program can apply for the masters or Ph.D. program with full transfer of credit or exit just with the certificate. This initiative responds to the wide interest in conflict resolution and the desire of many of our participants to become "practitioners" as well as enhance the quality of our programs by allowing us to impose more rigorous selection standards for admission to our degree granting programs.
- 2) A change in the required Grade Point Average for doctoral student applicants from a 3.0 in their masters degree program to a 3.5 G.P.A. This change will significantly "raise the bar" for entrance to our doctoral program and allow for a more manageable doctoral student-faculty ratio and enhance the graduation rate and quality of our graduates.
- 3) A change in the requirements of the masters degree program. The 45 credit hour requirement has been reduced to 39 credit hours and three courses have been moved from the required category to the elective category, allowing for more student choice in course selection. Students currently in the master's degree program can elect to move their academic plan into this new program and should contact Lee or Andrea or Jake about their desire to do so.
- 4) New requirements for faculty to keep a minimum of four office hours per week with times posted on their door, in their syllabi, and with Andrea. They will be available during these times to respond to student inquiries and to meet with students and student's should take note of these times and dates. Also, faculty have been given notice that inquiries should be responded to within 72 hours unless they give notice that they are on travel duties or vacation.
- 5) New guidelines on return of exams and papers. Except for doctoral qualifying exams which take longer to evaluate, faculty will make every effort to return papers and exams within two weeks. If this is not to happen, faculty should give notice and explanation to students and to the Department chair.
- 6) A New Regular Speakers Series to significantly enhance the Intellectual excitement of being a member of the DCAR community. This is being kicked off by myself speaking on "Milestones in My Journey in Peace and Conflict Studies" and will be followed approximately every two weeks with talks from our Visiting Fulbright Scholar in Residence, Dr. Georgina Chami, officers from the Florida State office of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Board, and a board member of Amnesty International. The series will continue with speakers from the South Florida Community and beyond, as well as our own faculty and students. Please be on the lookout for announcements. We will try to make these talks available to our distance learning students as well as invite our residential students and community members to attend in person.
- 7) New initiatives to our Conflict Consulting and Training Group to give students opportunities to participate in professional consulting and training with clients in South Florida and beyond. Dr. Michael Evans spoke yesterday to a group of students and is working on ways to involve some of them in his consulting practice with the Army Corp of Engineers and other government clients.
- 8) New initiatives to seek and consider student input. This will be done by new ways to seek course evaluations and administer a survey on a broad range of DCAR issues including curriculum.
- 9) A major review of our Doctoral Program Curriculum by DCAR faculty and additional NSU and external committees. This will be a year- long effort. We will keep you posted on developments and invite your participation.
- 10) New initiatives to change the public "face" of DCAR and enhance communication. One effort is this Newsletter put together under the outstanding guidance and effort of one of your classmates, Heather Wellman, and another effort is a totally revised website that publicizes the accomplishments and exciting endeavors of our DCAR community members.
- 11) A new masters program, headed by Professor Jason Campbell and headquartered in MACS, with courses available this winter term and beyond to DCAR students.
- 12) New initiatives that will likely develop quickly with DCAR "partnering" with our Huizenga School of Business on a new Concentration in Conflict Resolution Practice.

There are several other initiatives in the works that will move us forward in our quest for academic excellence for our program, and we will keep you informed as we work on these. You should also know that while we are undertaking initiatives to enhance the academic experience for our students, faculty members' responsibilities extend far beyond dealing directly with students and there are significant initiatives that are changing the expectation and performance standards for faculty as NSU moves in its quest to become a "University of Distinction". So please work with us as we deal with the shifting environment which is requiring faculty to become much more active in research, publication and grant producing efforts as well as new demands on service to the Department, school, university and community. We hope to collaborate with outstanding students in many of these efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate with you through this "Message from the Chair." I hope you can share some of the excitement and hopefulness I have for this journey to really install a deep sense of pride in being a member of the DCAR community, and help us work together to make this a truly outstanding program. It will take all of us to make this vision a reality and I invite you jump aboard for the ride and contribute what you can while also attending to your own pursuit of academic excellence.

Upcoming Events

**September 29
4:30 - 5:30 pm**

Dr. Georgina Chami
Fullbright Scholar
United Nations Peace-keeping in the Post-Cold war era
Maltz Rm, 2057

October 1-5
Residential Institute
Nova Southeastern
Main Campus

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 by Oct. 1, 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!

Faculty Profile

Cheryl Duckworth, Ph.D

Dr. Duckworth is a professor of Conflict Resolution at Nova Southeastern University. A peace-building program leader and conflict resolution policy analyst, she has served such organizations as the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy, the Center for International Education, and InterAction. She has lived in Zimbabwe and Paraguay, and her policy work has focused on peace education and peace economics. She has published and presented globally. Her book on the indigenous rights movement in Paraguay will be published this fall. In addition to her academic and education background, Dr. Duckworth brings a vibrant personality and excitement to our program. Lucky for her, one of her favorite pastimes is visiting the beach—and South Florida is perfect for her to indulge to her heart's desire. She is just getting to know the area and still travels frequently back up north to visit friends and family.



Student Profile

Gwendolyn Emanuels-Smith

Gwen is one of our finest doctoral students. She received a Master of Science degree in biotechnology which enabled her to participate in several research and consultancy projects in environmental sciences. Her interest in social sciences started when she was asked to negotiate on behalf of Suriname in the United Nations biodiversity debate for two years. Since 2004, she has been leading an environmental non-profit organization, ACT Suriname, where she works directly with indigenous peoples in the tropical rainforests. Gwen is specifically interested in analyzing the conflict and cooperation between Western and traditional knowledge in climate change. Gwen's undergraduate background is in agronomy with a specialization in knowledge extension to the farm-level. Gwen was born and raised in the Netherlands, and lived in Suriname (South America) for the last 32 years. Check Gwen's organization <http://act-suriname.org> and learn from her work in environmental conflict.



Alumni Focus

Barbara Strahl

When Barbara Strahl received her Ph.D in Conflict Analysis and Resolution in 2005, she didn't know what life had in store for her career. What she found was an exciting future as the Senior Mediation Specialist for the Clark County (NV) Neighborhood Justice Center. "There is never a dull moment and every case, no matter how similar the circumstances, is different," Stahl said. She currently trains volunteers and community members to mediate just about any type of dispute you can imagine except contested custody. She also helps oversee the juvenile restorative justice program—a program that mediates between juvenile offenders and their victims. Strahl has one more hat to wear when she is called in to personally mediate large or difficult cases. She credits her degree with making all the difference in her effectiveness as a mediator, but she also thinks her dedication comes from a larger calling. "What I am doing is important," she says. "Everyday there is something new, and I love my job."



Meeting in the Middle: DCAR Study Abroad Program

This past summer 14 students from the DCAR traveled to Ecuador to participate in a Study Abroad Program that introduces students to the field of Conflict Resolution in the context of International Development. Students spent two weeks in Ecuador traveling through the Coastal, Andean and Amazon Regions of this beautiful country. In these different ecosystems students had the opportunity to interact with local farmers, community groups, local organizations and policy-makers. Using a livelihood systems approach students explored the relationship between individuals, households, communities and ecosystems, in order to improve understanding of the diversity in these systems and its implications for socioeconomic development and conflict resolution. Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (ESPOL), in Guayaquil, was our host university. ESPOL provided logistical support for the course and, most importantly, students and faculty from both universities benefited from the exchange of knowledge, information and experiences.

The goal of DCAR's Study Abroad Program is to provide an overseas experience that will enhance student's cross-cultural skills and foster sensitivity, appreciation, and understanding of diversity and global issues. If interested in more details about upcoming Study Abroad Programs please contact Dr. Elena Bastidas.



Picture: DCAR Students at the Middle of the world monument.

Publications

Problem Solving Mediation Training: Participant's Guide by Sharmon Monagan and Eshanda James Available on Amazon! ISBN: 10-0557287456

The Journal of Asia Conflict Resolution is now accepting submissions that deal with topics affecting Asia. Please send submissions to journalacr@gmail.com

Canada and the African Diasporic Literary Imaginary 42nd Annual Convention. Deadline Sept. 30. <http://www.nemla.org/convention/2011/cfp.html>

Race, Radicalism, and Repression on the Pacific Coast and Beyond. Deadline Sept. 30. <http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Events/Events%20Main.html>

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