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The Resolutionary

Nova Southeastern University

January 2011

a message from Judith McKay, Ph.D . . .



Dear student and colleagues,

I am pleased to have this opportunity to share my thoughts and reflections about DCAR and its history. I have been employed by SHSS/DCAR since 1997 and I have watched the department grow and produce practitioners, scholars, and educators who have spanned the globe. I have had the opportunity to wear a variety of hats with DCAR. I am a graduate of the doctoral program, and as an employee I have had many roles including directing practicum and Community Resolution Services, faculty, directing several federal grants, and leading the department for 4 years, until 2007 when I

became the chair of our newest department, Multidisciplinary Studies. I am happy to still also be with DCAR!

Here is a little background about DCAR. It started as a graduate certificate program in the early 1990s from which a master's program was born in 1992. The new program and the new department were called Dispute Resolution. In 1994 a Ph.D. in Dispute Resolution was launched, the second in the country. At that time only residential courses were offered, students were accepted once a year in the fall, doctoral students had only 2 electives in the doctoral program, and could only attend school full time. I remember attending the dissertation defense for our first doctoral graduate in 1999, and how exciting it was for us all!

I recall being at our exhibit table at a conference in 1997 fielding questions about the possibility of having an online program. In 1998 we hired Dr. Honggang Yang to design our online program. He subsequently became the chair and then dean. Our distance program and our Residential Institutes were his creation and they began in 1999. At that time one of the biggest challenges was to figure out how to teach our practice-related classes online. We were fortunate to have Dr. Marcia Sweedler who volunteered to design our online classes in such subjects as Human Factors, Mediation, and Facilitation. Imagine if you will that at that time we did not have options such as Elive, Live Classroom, Elluminate, and Tegrity. Therefore designing these highly interactive classes was quite challenging, as was teaching them. I recall teaching Practicum online for the first time and wondering how in the world this would work! We graduated our first distance doctoral student in 2003, Dr. Kathleen Harmon and I had the honor of being her dissertation chair. Until July 2005 we were on NSU's east campus in Ft. Lauderdale. It was quiet with lots of parking and lots of raccoons from the neighboring park! Since that time I have watched our program develop and branch out around the world. Some of our faculty members over the years have gone on to help launch new conflict resolution programs and our graduates can be found teaching at universities and in the school systems; working in government, not-for-profits, and in corporations; serving as consultants, and practicing as mediators, arbitrators, facilitators, and trainers. They are in a variety of settings here and abroad bringing a part of DCAR with them. We have had Fulbright scholars and have graduated multiple generations from the same family! This is a very exciting time to be in DCAR. Our field is vibrant and world events point daily to the increasing need for us and for what we offer. Ten years ago I advised students how to subtly weave terms such as conflict management throughout their resumes and cvs, and how to explain what their degree meant. Employers wondered why they would ever need a conflict specialist. Now I advise them to proclaim it boldly! Now terms such as mediation, conflict and dispute resolution, ombuds, and facilitation, appear regularly in job advertisements. Now many traditional disciplines hire our graduates because they can bring something special, something different, something so very necessary to their department and organization.

Same Focus, New Name

Congratulations to Robyn Gabe for naming our newsletter. The mission of the newsletter is still to keep you informed of important happenings in DCAR, but now with an improved name. Look for Robyn to be joining Dr. Neil Katz for lunch at RI!

CRCTG's First Semester is a Homerun



A major objective of many DCAR students is getting real world experience. Neil Katz, DCAR Chair, has provided an avenue for select students to get that hands on training through his Conflict Resolution Consulting and Training Group (CRCTG). The group gives students the opportunity to work with Katz's successful private practice to learn many of the skills taught during DCAR's course work. During its inaugural trimester, the students were able to assist Dr. Katz in his professional practice with groups such as the Edelman Consulting in New York City, Cable Public Relations Industry, the National League of Cities, the Defense Comptrollers Program, the Rochester, New York School District, and the Capstone Course for the Public Administration Program at Syracuse University. CRCTG students also assisted Dr. Katz in presentations on Conflict Styles, Workplace Mediation, and Negotiation for Nova Southeastern staff members in workshops sponsored by the Office of Human Resources.

The mission of the program is to provide students with a real world experience by treating the group like a real consulting firm. The students led by Katz and other faculty operate as junior associates in the consulting group. The group charges fees and requires contracts just as any other consulting group would. This gives students the chance to engage in the entire process from finding business, to negotiating contracts to performing the services, to debriefing with other students and faculty. So far the program has been a success and shows a lot of promise for the future.

Upcoming Events

February 18-22
Residential
Institute

Look out for a date
for the Student Led
Strategic
Planning during RI!

February 12-25
Common Ground Film
Festival. Visit [http://](http://shss.nova.edu/cgff/)
shss.nova.edu/cgff/
for more information.

Find Common Ground: Enjoy a Movie

The 7th annual Common Ground Film Festival is being held February 12th - 25th. For residential students, you have the opportunity to see several engaging films and distance students can get involved too during the residential institute. The program, founded at Nova by Dr. Alexia Georgakopoulos, is a partnership with Common Ground, an international organization. Each week a different film is screened. The films take a balanced approach and emphasize the common humanity shared by people in conflict. They reveal why adversaries think, feel, and act as they do—stressing commonalities among peoples without ignoring the differences that distinguish them.

This Festival includes an impressive group of feature and documentary films that demonstrate how films can have a major impact in inflaming or defusing conflict.

What sets the Common Ground Film Festival apart from other film festivals is the way that the filmmakers tell their stories. The films selected are balanced in their portrayal of conflicts and issues; they avoid stereotyping by focusing on people as individuals rather than as representatives of groups; they promote understanding of the issues and people involved; they give audiences a broader context of the issues involved; and they show the commonalities among people while not ignoring the differences that divide them. The power of the media-- and of film-- can be used to develop greater understanding and tolerance, and can contribute to defusing conflict rather than inflaming it.

Please join us for as many screenings as possible:

February 12: Encounter Point; February 15: Talk Mogadishu; February 19: Can you Hear Me?; February 22: New Year Baby; February 25: In the Tall Grass.



Student Profile

Kristine Booth (Pictured left)

As an Employment Standards Officer for the Province of British Columbia's Ministry of Labour, Kristine Booth facilitates the voluntary resolution process and renders decisions in disputes between employers and employees under The Employment Standards Act and Regulation. This piece of legislation

sets the minimum standards for employees who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement for most workplaces within the province. For the majority of complaints Booth addresses, she resolves through mediation. For the most part she uses an evaluative model of mediation to interpret how, based on the information provided, the law would likely be applied. With that said, depending on the parties and the circumstances she utilizes aspects of the transformative model. The remainder of the complaints that come across her desk are resolved through investigations in which she may render a quasi-judicial decision. Recently, she was the successful candidate to win an Employment Standards Officer to Industrial Relations Officer developmental position. In this position she will acquire the competencies needed to hold adjudication hearings and facilitate certification and decertification processes for union representation. These two new alternative dispute resolution skill sets are the focal points for her practicum courses. She feels the DCAR program will undoubtedly support her career through strengthening her analytical and practical skills. She is enthusiastic to continue her education while continuing to develop professionally; sacrificing neither and benefitting both. Due to this mutually rewarding relationship for the second year she is the fortunate recipient of a Pacific Leaders Scholarship.

Alumni Focus

What does it mean to be an Alumni?

You may not be anywhere near walking down the aisle in your cap and gown, but knowing what you are looking forward to as a Nova Southeastern Alumni can be a powerful motivator. As an Alumni, you join a group of esteemed graduates in nearly every corner of the Earth. The Alumni office hosts clubs internationally of Nova graduates who get together and network and share experiences. You also can look forward to some pretty sweet discounts on everything from a gym membership to a car. Plus you still get limited access to the library and can keep your Nova email address for life! So, for those near and not so near to graduation, becoming anNova Alum offers some pretty exciting benefits.



Faculty Profile

Jason Campbell, Ph.D

We all know him as the philosopher and enthusiastic faculty member who walks down the aisle to shake your hand when you say something particularly interesting in class. What you may not know is he is a huge gamer and has more cats than he can count. He as a Ph.D in Sociopolitical Philosophy and has been with Nova for just over a year. He is the founder and Executive Director for the Institute for Genocide Awareness and Applied Research (IGAAR). He has written several books and publishes primarily in the field of genocide awareness and prevention. He teaches courses in Theories, Qualitative Research, Genocide, and several other electives. Campbell is also involved in the new National Security program and is excited about the new program. He is also excited about two new book projects he has coming up and his continued work with IGAAR. He is pleased that NOVA has given him the opportunity to continue to work on these important projects. He also has a very active blog and website through which he posts his teaching videos. As students, we all want to know: what really gets under his skin? Well, his biggest pet peeve is when people don't know the difference between a nerd, a geek, and a dork. The answer? Nerds are really, really smart people; geeks wear capes and attend comic conventions; and geeks are computer junkies. He also is a big gamer and plays Xbox under the gamer tag thelastassassin.



Publications/Presentations

Dr. Dustin Berna presents to the Southern Political Science Association on "Homosexual Genocide" January 8, 2011.

Dr. Neil Katz presents to the Southern Political Science Association on "Diagnostic and Intervention Sophistication in Public Policy Disputes: A Four Frame Approach" on January 8, 2011.

Dr. Cheryl Duckworth is presenting to CIES Conference in May 2011 on "What Students Learn When we Teach Peace."

Duckworth, C. (2011). Land and Dignity in Paraguay. Will be published March 3 by Continuum.

Katz, Lawyer, and Sweedler Book comes to print

We all read or will read the book in Human Factors, but a new, updated, and polished version of the Dr. Neil Katz and John Lawyer book (now also including Dr. Marcia Sweedler as a co-author) "Communication and Conflict Resolution skills is coming out soon. The updated version includes research articles on communication and conflict resolution skills in different cultural settings as well as links to additional research. It also includes a new chapter on positions, needs, and interests as well as greater incorporation of Maslow's human needs hierarchy into conflict resolution models.

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

