DCRS on the Move

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Fall 2013

Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution

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Greetings Everyone,

Welcome to 2014! We wanted to take the opportunity to recap some of the interesting things that both our students and faculty have been doing this past year. Fall 2013 was full of activity, including the launching of our peer mentoring program, designed to provide support to incoming students and to assist them as they transition into their graduate programs. Peer mentoring sessions were held during Residential Institute and our diligent volunteer mentors endeavored to keep in touch with entering students to answer their questions about the program and to provide insights on how to maintain a good work-life balance as graduate students. Our peer mentors are featured in this edition of the newsletter, so take a look! For students who are past their first year and who are looking towards developing their dissertations, the Dissertation Working Group, led by Dr. Robin Cooper, has been going strong with meetings during the term and at Residential Institute (RI). The Fall 2013 RI saw its first Dissertation Boot Camp conducted by Dr. Elena Bastidas, which was well received. At Residential Institute, we also brought you the first keynote presentation that engaged both a dramatic reading of a play combined with a restorative justice dialogue. This production combined the efforts of faculty, students and presenters from the community. We are still hearing wonderful comments about its impact. Our DCAR Colloquium also engaged a number of community participants in an effort to continue dialogue through the scholarship of engagement. Some of its highlights are also featured in this edition. Special thanks goes to Ms. Sharon McIntyre for her tireless efforts in compiling this newsletter edition and for the assistance from Amy Guimond. They both serve as Graduate Assistants at DCAR. We look forward to reporting on your accomplishments this winter term. Enjoy the New Year!

Claire Michèle Rice, Ph.D. Chair, DCAR
Art and creativity know no borders. We human beings allow them to enter into our emotional center and touch our deepest core, our humanity. As an artist who is now passionately focused on conflict transformation, I know that when our creative side is engaged and our usual defense mechanisms are lowered we have the possibility, even if for a brief moment, to let ourselves walk in the shoes of the other, using what I choose to call the "Interactive Dramatic Lens."

The concept of using art as a vehicle for human expression is of course not new. Throughout the centuries art has been used to convey messages and to record history. From the first cave drawings, to Greek theater, Shakespearean plays, poetry, novels, modern day films, television programming and documentaries, all have the ability to transport us through the magic of “what if.” During our Fall RI 2013 the dramatic lens was used to present a staged reading dealing with a sensitive and volatile topic of discussion: exploring the concept of Restorative Justice in the Israeli/Palestine ongoing conflict.

Thanks to an amazing group of very generous and talented professionals, writer, director and actors, the presentation was a success. The panel discussion moderated by Dr. Toran Hansen that followed, made up of both Israeli and Palestinian experts, made for an engaging, informational and educational event.

I hope this will be the first of many similar presentations where ‘art and conflict’ meet to offer different possibilities when addressing issues. There are many gifted creative artists in DCAR; it would be wonderful to create a ‘working group’ where we all can join our efforts, Dr. Robin Cooper has already agreed to be our faculty advisor. If you are interested, please contact me at cw835@nova.edu

Peace!

Crystina Wyler, MA
The Artful Communicator, Inc., President
Doctoral Student & Graduate Assistant
Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Classes were held for online students during the 29th Residential Institute (RI) during fall 2013. Students also had an opportunity to take part in a variety of working groups. The groups had meetings and will meet again in early February for Winter RI 2014. Check out a meeting and get involved.

- African Peace and Conflict Network (Dr. Davidheiser)
- African Working Group (Dr. Muvingi)
- Christian Perspectives in Peacemaking Working Group (Dr. Nixon)
- Culture and Conflict Working Group (Dr. Davidheiser)
- CSA Case Study Working Group (Dr. Holliday)
- Gender and Conflict Working Group (Dr. Berna)
- International Diplomacy Working Group (Dr. Berna)
- Latin American Working Group (Dr. Bastidas)
- NSA Presents Dr. John Palmatier on Credibility Assessment (Related to NSAM 5008 Assessment of Credibility)
- Peace Education Working Group (Dr. Duckworth)
- Restorative Justice Working Group (Dr. Hansen)
- Social Justice Roundtable I (Dr. McKay)
- Social Justice Roundtable II (Dr. McKay)
- The Applied Conflict Resolution Community of Practice

Land of Fire is a docudrama based on a dialogue between an Israeli woman and the Palestinian man who attacked a bus she was on 22 years earlier. This docudrama touches on almost all aspects of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.
Upcoming Conferences—Announcement Excerpts

**Graduate Student Conference: The Future of Trauma and Memory Studies: Challenging Interpretive and Theoretical Boundaries:** [http://traumaandmemory.weebly.com/call-for-papers.html](http://traumaandmemory.weebly.com/call-for-papers.html)

Deadline: January 15, 2014
Dates: April 11-12, 2014
Location: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Contact: Jessica Young jkyoung2@illinois.edu

**Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership’s Without-Borders Conference:** [https://reason.kzoo.edu/csjl/withoutborders/](https://reason.kzoo.edu/csjl/withoutborders/)

Deadline: January 15, 2014
Dates: Sept 25-28, 2014
Location: Kalamazoo College, Michigan
Contact: Questions to: Arcus.Center@kzoo.edu Submit to: Karla.Aguilar@kzoo.edu

**Oral History Society Annual Conference - Community Voices: Oral History on the Ground:** [http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=H-Oralhist&month=1312&week=c&msg=XbT%2Bm%2BOTGDhYWRffC8tQiQa](http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=H-Oralhist&month=1312&week=c&msg=XbT%2Bm%2BOTGDhYWRffC8tQiQa)

Deadline: January 17, 2014
Dates: July 18-29, 2014
Location: Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, UK
Contact: Proposals should be emailed to the Conference Administrator: Belinda Waterman at belinda@essex.ac.uk

**Outrage/Action: Leveraging Commitment in Gender Research, Theory and Practice:** [http://historicaldialogues.org/events-and-opportunities/](http://historicaldialogues.org/events-and-opportunities/)

March 21-22, 2014
George Mason University | Arlington Campus

We invite presentations of individual papers, organized panels and workshops, including those that focus on applicable strategies and skills, as well as artistic/multi-media presentations/performances. To submit, please email scarcgc@gmail.com with an abstract of no more than 250 words plus a brief biography of no more than 100 words. The final date to submit is February 1, 2014.

Toran Hansen

Toran Hansen is in his third year as an Assistant Professor at DCAR. He is particularly interested in engaging in work related to restorative justice, social justice, and reflective conflict resolution practice. The past several months have been very busy for him. One of the highlights of his activities was the Global Course that he led in Ireland. On the trip, Hansen and his class were able to see the work of such organizations as the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice, Peace Players International, Theater of Witness, Corrymeela Community, and the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation. He has also been busily promoting his book, *The Generalist Approach to Conflict Resolution: A Guidebook (2013)* published by Lexington Books, which was released this year. Most recently, he presented on the generalist approach at the Peace and Justice Studies Association’s annual conference in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. While there, he was interviewed by PeaceVoice television, an organization that interviews people from the fields of conflict resolution and peace and justice studies. They subsequently broadcasted the interview on their website. On the home front, Toran was pleased to play an integral role in bringing the *Land of Fire* presentation and discussion to DCAR during the fall Residential Institute. In addition, on an ongoing basis, he plans on continuing his work with Drs. Elena Bastidas and Gwendolyn Smith in Suriname.
Dr. Evan Hoffman: A Scholar and a Practitioner

DCAR’s newest faculty member, Dr. Evan Hoffman, brings with him a passion for teaching theory that is firmly grounded in practice. As both a scholar and a practitioner, he exemplifies the notion of the scholarship of engagement.

Dr. Hoffman has over ten years of experience doing applied work in numerous contexts around the globe. He has trained Vietnamese villagers in mediation skills, undertaken high-level conflict prevention work in West Africa, assisted the governments of Sudan and Uganda with implementing the Nairobi Agreement, trained new recruits in the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) in using hands-on conflict resolution skills while they are on duty, and worked with officials from the European Union on designing conflict prevention policies and responses to emerging crises.

Dr. Hoffman also has an extensive publication record. Recently, he has been the guest editor of a special edition of the Canadian Foreign Policy Journal focusing on International Mediation. He has also authored numerous articles on the themes of conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding, and mediation; including the “Mediator’s Handbook for Durable Peace” (2010). His newest book chapter, to be published in the Spring of 2014, critically examines the peace process in Myanmar (Burma).

Dr. Hoffman plans to remain an active practitioner while teaching at DCAR. For example, he was recently invited to join the UN’s Mediation Support Unit roster of mediation experts, and he continues to be a member of the UN’s rapid response roster of conflict prevention experts. Moreover, he continues to serve as a Senior Associate at the Canadian International Institute of Applied Negotiation in Ottawa, Canada after having been the organization’s Executive Director for over 4 years. To read more about Dr. Hoffman’s work, please visit www.linkedin.com/pub/evan-hoffman/60/44/a56.”
Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Judith McKay is Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution and Community Studies, the Chair of the Department of Multidisciplinary Studies (DMS) and the Director of Community Resolution Services (CRS). CRS provides services to the NSU and local communities and is a practicum site for DCAR and MACS and is open to SHSS volunteers.

Dr. McKay enjoys working with students in CRS and with the community. She is especially passionate about working with underserved populations and partnering with community groups. She has been at NSU for almost 17 years and was the DCAR Chair prior to becoming the founding Chair of the Department of Multidisciplinary Studies (DMS).

DMS has 3 degree programs: M.S. College Student Affairs; M.A. Cross-disciplinary Studies and M.S. National Security Affairs. DMS offers 3 graduate certificates: College Student Personnel Administration; National Security Affairs and Qualitative Research.

Dr. McKay has been professionally involved in conflict resolution for over 25 years in a variety of capacities from a mediator and arbitrator to trainer, executive and conflict coach, and professor. She has consulted for private, civic, religious and community organizations. She has been interviewed on radio and television regarding conflicts in neighborhoods, families, and organizations. She was named the NSU Administrator of the Year in 2012, the SHSS Administrator of the Year in 2012 and 2004 and the SHSS Faculty Member of the Year in 2003.

Dr. McKay is a trainer and presenter. She has been involved in training a variety of professionals, including therapists, attorneys, teachers, mediators, conflict resolution specialists, community leaders, service providers, organizational leaders, health care professionals, clergy, and law enforcement officers.

Since coming to NSU, she has been involved in three significant federal grants. Each grant was for a period of one to three years. She has been trained by the Community Relations Service of the US Department of Justice and is one of their facilitators. Currently she is actively pursuing grant opportunities.

Dr. McKay presents each year at national and international conferences and seminars, including The Association for Conflict Resolution; The Association for Graduate Liberal Studies Programs; The Association for Interdisciplinary Studies and The Dispute Resolution Center. Her most recent conference acceptance for 2014 is for PCA/ACA. In addition, she is a sought-after speaker for professional associations and other groups. She is especially happy to speak with students and is in office #1120.
Faculty, Students and Alumni on the Move

**Michelle Cromwell**, Ph.D., (pictured on the left) graduate of the master’s and doctoral programs in the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution (DCAR) in NSU’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS), has been appointed to the faculty of Regis College in Weston, MA as an Associate Professor of Politics and Social Justice and the Advisor of the Honors Program.

**Thomas Matyok**, Ph.D., (pictured on the right) graduate of the doctoral program in the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution (DCAR) in NSU’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS), has been promoted to Associate Professor in the Conflict and Peace Studies Program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). Matyok has been a full-time faculty member at UNCG since 2006, teaching courses such as Organizational Conflict, Fundamentals of Conflict and Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution in Groups. He is the former director of the International Seafarer’s Center in Brunswick, GA.

**Neil Katz**, Ph.D., (pictured on the left) faculty in the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution (DCAR) in NSU’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS), co-presented a workshop with DCAR doctoral candidate **Suzzette Harriott** (pictured on the right) at the Association for Conflict Resolution’s Annual Conference in Minneapolis. The workshop was entitled “Enhancing Organizational Conflict Consulting Effectiveness: Utilizing Multiple Frames and Reframing.” Harriott is an organizational consultant and is working on her dissertation. Katz teaches courses including Negotiation Theory and Practice, Organizational Conflict Intervention, and The Reflective Practitioner: Consulting Conflict and Change in Organizational Settings with Leaders in Organizational Conflict: A Four Frame Approach.

**Claire Michèle Rice**, Ph.D., Chair and associate professor and **Stephen Agbor**, (pictured on the right) Doctoral candidate at DCAR, co-presented at the Sixth Annual Mentoring Conference entitled, Impact & Effectiveness of Developmental Relationships, in Albuquerque, New Mexico and sponsored by the UNM Mentoring Institute in November 2013. The Rice and Agbor presented on “Mentoring as a Tool for Developing self-Efficacy in Children.” The study examined mentoring workshops and activities that were used to develop efficacy skills in conflict resolution, diversity awareness, and cognitive and practical skills.

**Carl Letamendi**, M.B.A, doctoral candidate at DCAR, (pictured on the left) presented on his work involving graduate students in the School of Business at NSU. His presentation was entitled, “Oil and Water: The Incompatible Mentor-Mentee Relationship” In addition to his graduate studies, Letamendi is a graduate assistant for grants research and is the former president of the SHSS Student Government Association. **Jasmine Letamendi**, also one of DCAR’s doctoral students, (pictured on the right) presented at the conference, on the mentoring research that she has been a part of, entitled, Evaluating Mentor-Mentee Retention and Satisfaction: A Comparative Two-Year Study of the Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center’s Peer Mentorship Program.”

**Otis G. Jarvis**, PhD student in DCAR (pictured left), was admitted to the Leadership Metro Richmond (LMR) 2014 class. LMR is the premier regional leadership program for emerging leaders in the community.

**Brian Ziemen**, Ph.D., (pictured on the left) a graduate of the doctoral program in the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution (DCAR) in NSU’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS), has been appointed Chief Financial Officer at Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
October 24, 2013 - Cheryl Duckworth Ph.D.

Teaching Terror: 9/11 and Collective Memory in America’s Classroom

Just over ten years from the attacks of 9/11, what sort of collective memory of that event is being shaped? 9/11 is becoming an American “chosen trauma.” This study investigates the development of that collective memory as it is being shaped in US middle and high school classrooms. Cheryl will present her survey and interview data, gathered directly from middle and high school teachers, in which they share their approaches, insights, emotions and challenges as regards teaching 9/11.

November 7, 2013 - Siegfried Wiessner, LL.M., SJD

Solving Problems in Society

Dr. Wiessner is a Professor of Law and the Founder and Director of St. Thomas University’s Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights in Miami. Florida Professor Wiessner teaches U.S. Constitutional Law and International Law. He has published widely in the fields of constitutional law, international law, human rights, international indigenous law, the law of armed conflict, arbitration, space law and refugee law. Wiessner attended Yale Law School in 1982, he was immersed in that institution’s distinctive problem-oriented approach to law.

November 21, 2013 - Roza Pati, LL.M., SJD

Human Trafficking

Dr. Pati has a rich experience in public service, administration and academia. She has been working on the issues of human trafficking, in various capacities, since the mid 1990’s. Her lectures, presentations and scholarly work focus on issues of state responsibilities in fighting human trafficking, the human rights approach to trafficking vis-à-vis the criminal law approach, issues of prevention and root causes, human trafficking as organized crime, as well as the role of academia and the business sector as part of civil society’s combat on human trafficking. In 2005, she facilitated the preparation of The Miami Declaration of Principles on Human Trafficking-- a set of law and policy recommendations on the issue.
Meet The DCAR Peer Mentors

Sanàa Alaoui

At Nova Southeastern University at the department of Arts and Sciences, Sanàa has been working on and off as an adjunct faculty of French and MSA since 2009. And in 2012 at School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution, she participated as a teacher assistant of Mediation Theory and Practice course and Qualitative Research Method course. As a graduate research assistant, she brought to the department a Moroccan project that focuses on International Peace Building and Peace Education program, which she participated in its research, development and its coordination. She has one more semester to conclude all the doctorate courses’ requirements and has maintained a 4.0 GPA. Sanàa participated in projects for the Defense (DLI) as a researcher and course developer for graduate and undergraduate programs of Middle East Studies, and she has taught military students as a full time professor for two years. She recently published an article on public policy related to Sovereign Immunity and the Senate Bill 1676. She has been working as a certified LTI/DLI/OPI tester since 2010. Her field of interest is comparative politics, legislative lobbying, constitutional reforms, and international relations involving human rights and social movements. She has been involved in political campaigns’ activities for many years participating in meeting with political candidates for voter outreach for Florida congressmen, senators, house representatives, the 2004 constitutional amendment and 2008 presidential election. She speaks many languages including, French, MSA, Spanish, English ... She has taught at the university level internationally and locally for many years.

Carl Letamendi

Carl Letamendi is a Ph.D. student in the Conflict Analysis and Resolution program, expected to defend his dissertation early 2014 on the factors that cause variations in aggregate social sentiment. Carl is creating a new theoretical framework for analyzing social conflicts in aggregate in complex systems, initially testing his framework on the economic measures of consumer sentiment. Carl is interned at the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIH/NIDA), just outside of Washington DC, where he outreached to college and university students nationwide to encourage them to participate in NIH’s annual National Drug Facts Week. He has also conducted research on new synthetic drugs, including "molly" (MDMA), Spice/K2 (synthetic marijuana), 25I-NBOMe (synthetic LSD), and Bath Salts. He has drafted findings for possible congressional testimony, while identifying how introduction of these drugs is causing conflict in our societies. Carl’s primary research interests include social inequities, health disparities, greed, and social manipulation.

Sue Walton-Robertson

Sue Walton-Robertson is originally from New Zealand and now resides in Las Vegas, NV. She holds a MPA from University of Texas at Arlington and a MBA from National University. For her undergraduate she attended SDSU (go Aztecs!). She currently works in Human Resources as a HR Manager for Ford, and is pursuing her Ph.D. with a concentration in Organizational Conflict. In her spare time she volunteers for Heaven Can Wait Animal Sanctuary and is an avid pug lover!
Meet The DCAR Peer Mentors

**Vivian Wu**

Vivian Wu, BS Economics, MBA, is a Ph.D. Student, Taiwanese-born U.S. Citizen. She traces her origin to Shanghai, China. She speaks English and Mandarin. She also reads and writes Chinese. She holds a B.S. in Economics from University of California, Berkeley and an MBA from San Francisco State University. Currently, she is a 3rd-year Ph.D. student at DCAR with a concentration in Organizational Conflict. She has served as CFO/VP of Finance and Controller for both private and public apparel companies. She is a corporate executive specializing in accounting, finance, merger and acquisition, turnaround strategy, redesigning software systems, business negotiation, US GAAP, and Sarbanes Oxley compliance. [http://www.linkedin.com/pub/vivian-wu-mba/2/312/714](http://www.linkedin.com/pub/vivian-wu-mba/2/312/714)

**Ron Wiley**

Ron Wiley is a Ph.D. student at DCAR, who has served the past 18 years with Resource Exchange International, Inc. (REI), a humanitarian service organization working in 10 restricted access countries. Ron is currently the Director of Field Personnel and a member of the leadership team for REI, which involves him in everything from recruiting new staff to providing on-field staff care. He actively coaches and mentors young leaders who are exploring cross-cultural service options, particularly those recently deployed with the U.S. military. Until early 2010, they had served as REI’s Field Director for Kazakhstan, launching programs in English education, expatriate language acquisition, and micro-enterprise development in rural villages. Ron’s agricultural upbringing and education led to several years in extension education and research. Subsequently, he and his wife served 10 years with The Navigators developing student leaders at the U.S. Air Force Academy and New Mexico State University, before beginning work with REI and moving to Kazakhstan in 1994. Ron has a B.S. in Bio-Agricultural Science, and an M.S. degree in Plant Genetics & Breeding. Ron and his wife have four grown children, three daughters and a son. They live in Pueblo, Colorado, near where Ron’s ancestors homesteaded, and where family members continue active farm and ranch operations.

**Cynthia Contreras**

Cynthia Contreras has been living in Orlando, Florida since 2006. She is originally from Guatemala. She got her bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Central Florida (UCF). She also works at UCF as an Academic Advisor for biomedical sciences and biotechnology undergraduate students. She is in her second year of the DCAR Ph.D., and her concentration is Organizational Conflict. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her dog Tsuki. She also goes back to Guatemala to visit her family at least once a year.

**Krystle Hunter**

Krystle Hunter is a Ph.D. candidate at Nova Southeastern University in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution (DCAR) program. Ms. Hunter has served as a Teaching Assistant to various professors within the DCAR program and continues to be active within her program. Currently, she serves within DCAR as a co-chair for the Dissertation Working Group for doctoral students and Graduate Assistant and co-facilitator for the Peer Mentoring program. She is an active and dedicated student who is enthusiastic about her field of study. Alongside her Ph.D. studies, Ms. Hunter serves as a caregiver to a United States Army veteran and works closely with her local VA hospital and centers.
Meet The DCAR Peer Mentors

Amy Guimond

Amy Guimond has a Bachelors in psychology from the University of Rhode Island (Go Rams!), a Masters’ degree from DCAR, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the DCAR program. She lives in Hollywood, Florida with her two shelter-rescued dogs and her husband Ray. Amy is an avid runner, has a black belt in karate, published her first book, and enjoys travel and wine tastings. She is currently a Graduate Assistant for the DCAR program and volunteers for the local food bank and other local initiatives to help those who are food insecure. Having come to DCAR out of a 7-year career in law enforcement, Amy is keenly interested in organizational conflict related to law enforcement, but finds that she is far more attuned to deal with civil rights issues in the United States and how this affects religious minorities. Other interests include GLBT issues, rights issues within Indigenous American populations, and advocacy for children and the aged. Amy is currently the Peer Mentor for all Masters level students in DCAR and may be reached at AG1071@nova.edu for any student needs.

Erica W. Martin

Erica W. Martin is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Nova Southeastern University. She is an Information and Eligibility Specialist for Community Based Care of Central Florida (CBC). CBC is the lead agency overseeing foster care and adoption services in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties. Ms. Martin has received certification as a Crisis Worker by the American Association of Suicidology. She has previously worked as a Family Case Manager at One Hope United and has volunteered as a certified Suicide Intervention Trainer for Heart of Florida United Way. Erica is a member of the Psi Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and dedicates her free time to working in the community. Erica has organized a step team for female youth at Great Oaks Village, a group home for foster children in Central Florida. In addition to organizing performances, Erica also hosts workshops on life skills for the young ladies. Erica is married to Michael Martin and has two dogs named Taco and Laila.

Cade Resnick

Cade Resnick is currently a high school teacher of Psychology and Economics in Seminole County Florida. He is also an adjunct professor of Psychology at Stetson University. Currently Cade is an elected municipal official in Winter Springs, Florida where he has the ability to apply all of the education he has received in the DCAR program. Further, Cade is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution (DCAR) at Nova Southeastern University. As a researcher, Cade has a focus within systems theory and a desire for analyzing world cultures.
Meet The DCAR Peer Mentors

Christian Schoepp

Christian Schoepp is an international conflict resolution practitioner with 10 years of work experience in the following fields: democracy, diplomacy, governance, multilateral institutions. Currently he is a Senior Consular Officer for the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada and his main responsibilities are to resolve and mediate conflicts of Canadian nationals abroad by providing personal assistance, intelligence, and Consular services. Further, he is a PhD candidate in the Department of Conflict analysis and resolution (DCAR) at Nova Southeastern University (NSU). As a researcher he is experienced in providing strategic and analytical guidance in developing top of the line and detailed analysis, analyzing raw data, drawing conclusions from the information, and clearly articulating that message to others. Finally, Mr. Schoepp is an avid blogger on citizen diplomacy at: http://www.christianschoepp.com

Sheila Northrop

Sheila Northrop has a Master’s Degree in Communication and Leadership from Gonzaga University. For the past twenty-two years she has been a part of the U.S. Military Community, because of that experience she has lived in many different places and traveled extensively. She is interested in Agriculture Policy and Military Conflict Training.

Jorge Rice

Jorge Rice is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Conflict Analysis & Resolution and is focusing his research towards environmental conflict management. At the young age of 18 Mr. Rice began working as a Private Investigator for a local law practice and assisted in the investigation of cases, performed intakes and was involved in various depositions of opposing parties. For the past six years Mr. Rice has served as a senior regulatory consultant in the telecommunications industry to provide regulatory analysis and help clients negotiate claims with the Department of Justice, Federal Communications Commission, Federal Bureau of Investigation, all 50 Secretary of State Agencies, and served as the head negotiator providing regulatory analysis assisting various telecommunication companies facilitate mergers and acquisitions. Shortly after entering DCAR, Jorge pursued various Florida Supreme Court Certifications, which include Circuit Civil Mediation, Family Mediation, Appellate Mediation, and Arbitration certification. In January of 2012 Jorge created Quadrant Mediation Inc, and since then has mediated for The American Arbitration Association, Florida Department of Financial Services, Oasis Alliance, Collins Center for Mediation, and other private sector companies. Some of the mediated cases include residential foreclosure disputes, equal employment, corporate disputes, insurance claims, nuptial agreements, and personal injury.
From Robin's Desk

Reflections on Trustworthiness

In the final class of my section of Qualitative Research I this fall, we had a discussion about trustworthiness in qualitative research. Several students noted that the first thing they associated with the idea of trustworthiness was the importance of study participants being able to trust the researcher. They pointed out how critical it is for a researcher to abide by research ethics such as confidentiality and privacy in order to protect the participants. They also shared ideas about how the researcher could build trust with participants during the interview process through reflective listening and being attentive and responsive to any emotional distress on the part of the interviewee. All of these good ideas had to do with the personal trustworthiness of the researcher in terms of ethical, professional, and compassionate conduct.

We also talked about the trustworthiness of qualitative research findings and how trustworthiness is understood in qualitative research in terms of the quality of qualitative studies. As I spoke with the class about notions such as transparency, adequacy, the balance between consistency and flexibility, and the importance of noting what was surprising during the research—my focus was on the research process and research report. After the class, however, I continued to think about these concepts and how they apply not only to research in peace and conflict studies, but also to the work we do as practitioners.

Transparency as an aspect of quality in research reports has to do with explaining who did what in the research process, and why. As practitioners, this same idea can be seen when facilitators share their inferences about what they are seeing in the group dynamics and communication. Adequacy in qualitative research has to do with ensuring that the methods selected are adequate to address the research objectives; in the practice arena, it is also vital that those leading a practice intervention are adequately trained and prepared and that they do not take on projects they are not equipped to handle successfully. In qualitative research, it is essential to balance consistency (for example, if using grounded theory, to employ the associated coding methods) with flexibility (for example, adjusting from focus group to individual interviewing if it becomes clear that participants are not comfortable speaking about the topic in front of others). This type of balance is also important to being effective as a practitioner of conflict resolution—perhaps adjusting from a problem-solving to a narrative mediation approach based upon what emerges during the story-telling phase of a mediation. Finally, in qualitative research, I have found that one aspect of a quality research report is the inclusion of what was surprising and unexpected about the research process or research findings. This is an indication that the researcher did not “force” the data to conform to particular anticipated outcomes. In the same way, an important part of being a reflective practitioner of conflict resolution is to consider what was surprising about how an interaction developed in the course of working toward resolution. Being alert and open to the unexpected can enrich both the research and practice associated with peace and conflict studies.

These are just a few of my thoughts. I welcome your insights and reflections on trustworthiness, as well! You can send your reflections to me at robicoop@nova.edu.

Dr. Robin Cooper serves as Director of Doctoral Programs and is Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution at DCAR.
The SHSS SGA sponsored many activities during the fall term. They started the academic year welcoming students with “A Kick Off to a Great Fall Term.” During the Fall Residential Institute students attended a volleyball social/dinner, an Interdepartmental Student Symposium, along with a Hawaiian Luau.