

CONFLICT RESOLUTION INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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PEACEBUILDING AND TRAUMA RECOVERY CONFERENCE COMES TO DU

In February, the Conflict Resolution Institute hosted our annual conference, “Peacebuilding and Trauma Recovery: Integrated Strategies in Post-War Reconstruction,” which proved to be one of our most significant achievements to date. This conference was co-hosted by CRI, The Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University, and the International Disaster Psychology Program of DU’s Graduate School of Professional Psychology. The latter unit contributes faculty members Judith Fox and Janet Shriberg to our Conflict Resolution faculty roster.

This conference was held February 22-24, 2007, and brought together peacebuilding theorists and practitioners, psychologists, cultural anthropologists, and others engaged in the work of transitional justice, post-conflict healing, and peacebuilding. The conference achieved international visibility and drew marked acclaim from participants.

Scholars from around the world came to DU to discuss topics from peacebuilding in Rwanda and the Balkans, to reintegrating soldiers into society, to educating caregivers on the importance of addressing

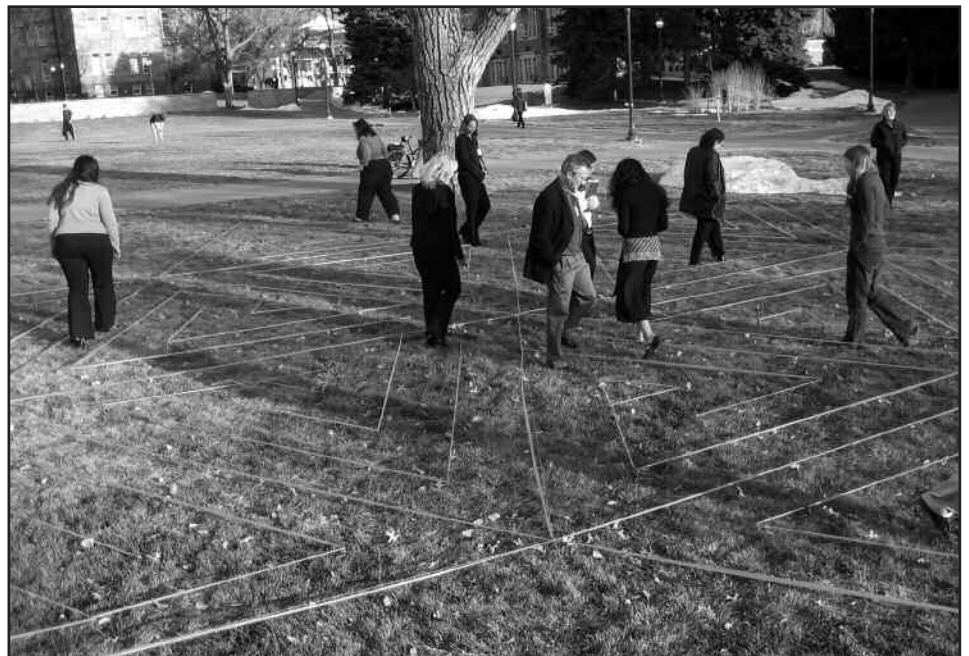
trauma through peacebuilding efforts. Almost 20 panels were held during the three-day conference, with keynote addresses by Dean Adjukovic and John Paul Lederach (joint), Yael Danieli and Vamik Volkan.

The conference goal was to examine the important interface between peacebuilding and trauma recovery during post-war reconstruction. Though often working next to each other in the field, these two areas have had too little opportunity to compare notes, share wisdom, learn of each other’s research, and plan for joint



Above: Trauma expert Yael Danieli shares a personal anecdote during her keynote address.

On Right: After a light snowfall, Robert Wertz leads conference participants in experiencing the Merkaba Mandala Project.



PEACEBUILDING AND TRAUMA RECOVERY

approaches. Those working in postwar reconstruction often have had to proceed with intervention ill-prepared in the knowledge and insights from critically related fields. Conference participants explored, through keynotes, panel discussions, topic-specific workshops and informal discussion, the research and practical applications of trauma recovery processes within the larger peacebuilding process. This conference allowed not only the presentation of the most current thinking in both fields, but through discussions and integrated panels and keynotes it took significant steps toward developing guidance for integrating work in these fields to best address the challenges of post-war communities. Conference outputs, still in progress, include the publication and distribution of proceedings, a website and network, and a committee tasked with developing a field guide for more informed practice. Several participants called for the creation of both a network and future integrative conferences.

In addition to this conference representing an opportunity to both bring the two fields up to date on each other's work over the last decade, it was also a chance to expand participation to a larger group and to include incoming, younger scholars and practitioners. In addition to professionals and scholars, graduate students from all three sponsoring programs (CRI, Disaster Psychology, and EMU's Justice and Peacebuilding), as well as those from International Studies, attended in significant numbers,



Above: Conference Co-Chair Barry Hart from EMU opens the plenary dialogue between Dean Adjukovic and John Paul Lederach.

On Right: Conflict Resolution M.A. students Luke Yoder, Leslie O'Rourke and Rena Gardenswartz reflect on their day of conference volunteering.



DU's Anne DePrince describes her work on the impact of trauma in children, while panel members Judith Fox, Conference Co-Chair, and Melodye Feldman look on.

and our conference staff included several hard-working student volunteers from these three programs. Two CRI students continue to assist in the preparation of the conference proceedings. Of note also was the participation of government agencies, such as the US Institute of Peace, and INGO's, such as Catholic Relief Services and WorldVision.

Students and participants alike found this conference to be a unique opportunity to explore the connection between achieving peace and addressing the psychological needs of populations in conflict areas. Participants left with a strong commitment to continue bringing the fields of conflict resolution and trauma recovery together.

- T. P. d'Estrée, L. O'Rourke and S. Tabatcher



VISITING SCHOLAR DR. RONALD FISHER BRINGS EXPERTISE TO CRI

In February 2007, CRI had the honor of hosting Dr. Ronald Fisher for a 10-week appointment as Senior Visiting Scholar. Students and faculty all benefited from his approachable manner and his willingness to share both his expertise and his time, and he contributed to many significant events during his time at DU.

Dr. Fisher came to the Institute from American University in Washington, D.C., where he is a Professor of International Relations in the Division of International Peace and Conflict Resolution in the School of International Service. He has a distinguished and extensive background in interactive conflict resolution, which involves informal, third party interventions in protracted and violent ethno-political conflict. Dr. Fisher has worked on the longstanding dispute in Cyprus and similar conflicts in other parts of the world.

Dr. Fisher arrived in Denver in time to attend CRI's February conference Peacebuilding and Trauma Recovery: Integrated Strategies for in Post-War Reconstruction, chairing a session on Integrating Trauma Studies and Peacebuilding in Educational Settings. He presented a paper entitled "The APA/CPA Ethnopolitical Warfare Initiative and Curriculum" which provided an overview of the work and product of a Curriculum Design Task Force mandated by the Joint Initiative of the American

Symposium Examines Bicomunal Work in Cyprus

On April 18, 2007, CRI hosted a public forum chaired by Dr. Fisher, The Cyprus Conflict and Bicomunal Peacebuilding Efforts, which brought together experts on the Cyprus conflict for a public discussion. Harry Anastasiou (Portland State University) began the workshop with a presentation outlining the history of the Cyprus conflict from inception to the current time, Benjamin Broome (Arizona State University) then led a discussion on an overview of bicomunal efforts from 1990-2006, followed by Michael Donahue (Critical Mass Leadership, Denver) outlined an example of current bicomunal work in his organization's youth leadership camp. Diana Chigas (Collaborative for Development Action, Cambridge) closed the panel by discussing how to evaluate the variety of peacebuilding programs. The forum was followed by a wine and cheese reception. The public forum was followed by a two-day workshop on April 19-20, attended by 19 invited experts on the Cyprus Conflict.



Professor Ronald Fisher describes his latest research to CRI Faculty.

and Canadian Psychological Associations on Ethnopolitical Warfare. This Task Force produced a graduate level curriculum that combined trauma relief with conflict resolution in the context of peacebuilding. This curriculum can be accessed at www.psyr.org/EPW%20contents.htm.

While at the Institute, Dr. Fisher presented to faculty, gave guest lectures, held office hours, chaired a symposium on Cyprus (see box) and taught a three day intensive course for graduate students. The course, "Interactive Conflict Resolution: Concepts and Skills for International Peacebuilders," provided an overview of Interactive Conflict Resolution which uses various methods to engage members of conflicting identity groups or nations in face-to-face dialogue, conflict analysis, cross-conflict training, problem solving, and reconciliation directed toward the building of peace with equity and justice. Dr. Fisher's model of third party consultation was offered as a guide for leading conflict analysis and problem-solving workshops which bring together unofficial representatives of conflicting parties. Graduate students participating in the course also had an opportunity to engage in shared self-reflection on their own interests and aspirations as facilitators and peacebuilders.

Dr. Fisher produced an extensive bibliography during his visit, with assistance from CRI master's candidate Dennis Barbour, "Applications of Social Psychology to International Conflict: An Endnote Electronic Bibliography." This publication is being offered for sale as part of the Institute's Working Paper Series (see newsletter insert).

- T. Thompson

PLANNING PROCEEDS FOR GEORGIAN MEDIATION CLINIC

In November, a team from the CRI traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia, for the first faculty exchange visit of the partnership project with Tbilisi State University. This project is funded by USAID through Higher Education for Development (HED) (for project outline, see *CRI Newsletter, Vol. 2, Number 1*). Beyond the forging of relationships between DU and TSU, the focus of this visit was to assist with the assessment of the need and scope of a university-based mediation clinic in Tbilisi, and to discuss clinic models and options. Accompanying me were Professor Ruth Parsons, CRI Research Professor and Social Work professor emerita, DU Vice Provost James Moran, also a Social Work professor, Robin Amadei, professional mediator and trainer and adjunct DU professor, and Cynthia Savage, Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution in the Colorado Judicial Branch, who years ago also founded the DU College of Law's mediation clinic.

Georgians are wonderful hosts, and our welcome began the day we arrived, when we were welcomed at the airport by Professor Guguli Magradze even though it was 4 am. After our initial rest, she had arranged for two of her graduate students, Giorgi and Lena, to be our guides on a tour of Tbilisi. Tbilisi is a beautiful medieval city hugging the riverbanks of the Mtkvari River, and reflects the crossroads of cultures it has historically hosted. Professor Magradze later included us in the baptism of



Robin Amadei facilitates discussion with Georgian graduate students in TSU's Institute of Conflict Analysis and Management.

her granddaughter in an Orthodox Christian cathedral, after which we were included in a large, traditional Georgian banquet, or *supra*—large both in terms of participants and in amounts of food.

Georgian life seems to be in general more subject to unpredictable constraints of weather, utility variations, resources, and political developments. Georgians by their nature are flexible



Cynthia Savage, TSU's Guguli Magradze, Tamra Pearson d'Estrée and Robin Amadei answer questions from Georgian Parliamentary members.



Above: Project team members from DU and TSU pose with TSU's Rector.

On Left: Tbilisi State University's graduate student Lela Topuria shows DU's Vice Provost James Moran, Robin Amadei and Tamra Pearson d'Estrée the Metekhi Church and Old Tbilisi.

PLANNING PROCEEDS

and good-natured in their response to such unpredictabilities, and cope easily and resourcefully with what they are faced. We learned the value of such flexibility. Professor Magradze learned while at this same banquet that her President, Shaakishvili, had to journey to Strasbourg in 48 hours to address the European Parliament on the then pressing issue of escalating hostilities with Russia. As an influential member of parliament, she had been called to join the parliamentary delegation accompanying him. With her resourcefulness, and with the flexibility of her colleagues, she was able to reorganize our week's work schedule so that she could manage it all with the quick parliamentary trip also. The first joint team meeting, moved to that next day (Sunday) was infused with a shared sense of both the critical nature of this project, and the critical time and opportunity they in Georgia were facing.

In addition to meeting with TSU faculty and administration, TSU project faculty also felt it important to make the university community aware of the forthcoming mediation clinic and its

benefits. At an open lecture, Ms. Amadei introduced the topic of mediation, its variants, and its place in the conflict resolution spectrum, and Ms. Savage outlined the nature and benefits of a mediation clinic. TSU conflict management graduate students also received advanced training in mediation from Ms. Amadei, and in cultural analysis of mediation models with Professor Parsons. Professor Magradze felt that another important part of the groundwork for bringing mediation to Georgia lay in establishing a relationship to the court system (as in the US), cultivating a relationship with judges as likely referral sources, and in developing and passing legislation that permits and encourages all of this to happen. To that end, she arranged for DU team members to join her in presenting a special session to Parliament on the nature and benefits of mediation and a mediation clinic. This session was attended by several parliamentarians, judges, and the media. We left feeling once again the tremendous opportunity that Georgians have to create a uniquely Georgian system for multilevel dispute resolution, and we felt privileged to witness its beginnings.

-T. P. d'Estrée

TEACHING IN TRINIDAD

By Karen A. Feste



Dr. Karen Feste, Co-Director of the Conflict Resolution Program.

As part of a U.S. government sponsored grant between the University of Denver Conflict Resolution Institute and the University of the West Indies- St. Augustine Campus Behavioral Science Division to develop mediation capacity building in Trinidad and Tobago, I taught an intensive one-month graduate course “Conflict Resolution Theory and Approaches” introduced

as a new class in the curriculum for students enrolled in their post-graduate diploma program and the recently developed master’s degree at UWI, at the beginning of the University’s spring semester, 2007.

The class met twice-weekly, from 5-8 in the evening, over a four-week period from roughly mid January through mid February. The scheduling was perfect. During this period Denver weather was a series of snowy blizzards, cold days, and impassable roads while the Caribbean (the Island of Trinidad is just seven miles off the coast of Venezuela) was balmy: warm, sunny, tropical. Relaxed. Carnival season celebrating the start of Lent (the country hosts the third largest festival in the world!), culminating in late February, was well underway. An energetic atmosphere of anticipation and creativity prevailed; the spirit was captured in the seminar as well. How do national events lay bare aspects of social conflict? And, how do these events likewise, reflect norms of conflict resolution? Such broad issues were brought into discussion. There were 31 students in the “seminar,”—mostly mid-career, full-time employees; their professional backgrounds diverse: law, theology, teaching, business—including oil and gas, and utilities. Several came from the police department (human resources, probation), others from government (foreign ministry, social development—national and provincial levels). The group represented all parts of the island of Trinidad, from Port of Spain to San Fernando,

and three traveled from the neighboring island of Tobago. Many were experienced mediators. Everyone had some background in Alternative Dispute Resolution techniques and familiarity with basic ideas.

Many of the students were active in discussion sessions, asking questions, and presenting individual points of view. Most of my lectures and the discussion sessions were tape recorded and transferred to CDs. I found the teaching experience quite rewarding. At the concluding session, they gave me some positive feedback of support, so I believe we had a good mutual relationship.

Class assignments were required to follow the plan provided by UWI with respect to what had been approved by the higher administration for this new course.

We also held a few class exercises. Two especially stand out: The “dialogue design” required each student to organize a plan along Yankelovich’s *The Magic of Dialogue*, for getting people of Trinidad together on the crime problem, produced a number of creative ideas. The other, at the final class session, required small groups of students to construct a Conflict Resolution Practitioner Oath along the lines of the Hippocratic Oath taken by Medical Professionals. Some of the phrasing was truly stunning, poetic.



The island of Trinidad offers incredible beauty.

SAID SPEAKS TO 2007 GALA ATTENDEES

CRI hosted its third annual Gala on April 28, 2007, on an unusually warm spring evening in the elegant Gottesfeld Room in the Ritchie Center on the University of Denver campus. Attendees at the event included CRI Advisory Board members, faculty, visiting scholars, staff, current students, alumni, and community supporters.

The program opened with greetings from CRI's two international projects: Ms. Karene-Anne Nathaniel, visiting scholar from the University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, welcomed Gala guests, followed by a video welcome from Professor Guguli Magradze from Tbilisi State University, Republic of Georgia.

The after dinner program began with recognition and acknowledgements of Institute faculty, Advisory Board members, staff and recent graduates. Three awards were also presented: the third annual "Best Thesis" award presented by CRI for the best thesis completed in 2006, and the two recognition awards to outstanding students from the student organization CRGSA. The evening ended with a compelling presentation, Making Peace with Islam by featured speaker, Professor Abdul Aziz Said.

Abdul Aziz Said is founder, current director, and professor of the American University's Center for Global Peace which undertakes a range of activities aimed at advancing under-



American University's Professor Abdul Aziz Said delivers thought provoking remarks on the U.S.'s relationship to Islam.

standing of world peace. Dr. Said is the senior ranking professor of international relations and the first occupant of the Chair of Islamic Peace.

The Best Thesis award, and its accompanying monetary prize of \$500, was presented to Ariana Harner by the first recipient of the award, Patricia Whitehouse. Ariana's thesis is entitled "Dialogue as Community Transformation: Possibilities and Limitations."

CRI's Conflict Resolution Graduate Student Association (CRGSA), selects two students each year who exemplify the organization's goals of integrating the experience of master's students with faculty, the university, the larger community and with each other. This year's recipient of the CRGSA Award was Mikaela Ladwig-Williams, past President of CRGSA. CRGSA chose Cathy Peterman to receive this year's SCORE Award for Student Excellence. Mikaela and Cathy will each receive a one year membership to the Association for Conflict Resolution – the national organizations for conflict resolution – courtesy of the student group.



Alum and donor Patricia Whitehead presented the annual Best Thesis Award to Ariana Harner.

- T. Thompson

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