

# CONFLICT RESOLUTION INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Conflict Resolution Institute, University of Denver, Colorado 80208 • (303) 871-7685 and (303) 871-6477

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## CRI MEETS CHALLENGE OF “GREENING” THE 2009 ACR-ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC POLICY CONFERENCE

OK, be honest. Did you know that it takes 4 liters of water to produce 1 liter of bottled water? That’s right, 3 liters of water are wasted during the production process for creating each single liter of plastic bottled water. What’s more, the great majority of plastic bottles don’t end up in the recycling bin like they should. 90 percent of the time they’ll end up in a landfill, where it can take thousands of years for the plastic to fully decompose. And that’s not even the end of the story—about 1.5 million barrels of oil are used to make plastic water bottles each year, a figure that doesn’t include all the oil burned in transporting the bottles to consumers. Add it all up and the picture becomes clear: Bottled water is terrible for the environment.



Audience at Professor Michael Dorsey Keynote

When the Conflict Resolution Institute (CRI) was invited to host the bi-yearly Association for Conflict Resolution Environment and Public Policy (ACR-EPP) section conference this June, CRI Co-Director Tamra Pearson d’Estrée had no trouble at all proposing the theme. “Climate change is a contentious issue at the forefront of people’s minds,” d’Estrée said, “so it was really appropriate for the time.”

For d’Estrée, choosing the topic of the conference was the easy part. But once the theme of climate change was chosen, d’Estrée and the CRI staff quickly realized the importance of “greening” the conference. A purpose of this conference was to put into action the ideas discussed in the forums, so with this in mind d’Estrée sought to make the conference itself as green as possible—a decision that would prove to be both an adventure and a learning experience for her, the staff and the student volunteers from CRI.

The first step towards greening the conference was for all to come to terms with the fact that any notion of convenience had to be tossed aside. “We make choices for convenience that are less green, so the act of ‘greening’ can be less convenient a lot of the time,” said d’Estrée. “It is a good way to stretch.”

Knowing that convenience was going to be thrown out the window, CRI staff member and student Lindsey Sexton worked with d’Estrée to formulate a “green” checklist and put their plan into action. First and foremost, no plastic water bottles, per the reasons discussed above. Attendees were encouraged to bring their own water bottle; if they forgot, the CRI provided aluminum bottles for sale. Buffets replaced boxed lunches, local food and wines were chosen to reduce the carbon footprint, folders were distributed instead of binders, and, naturally, 100% recycled paper was the paper of choice

### IN THIS ISSUE

- The 2009 ACR-Environment & Public Policy Conference at DU
  - Tips on Hosting a Green Event
  - Keynote Speakers
  - Conference Activities
- Visiting Scholar Cynthia Savage
- New Clinical Component to the CRI MA Program
- Alumni in the Field
  - Haddi Hafsteinsson, Iceland Ministry of Justice
- Faculty Spotlight - Janet Shriberg

## “GREENING” CONFERENCE, CONT.

despite the fact that it can be more expensive.

Compostable trash bags for compost were also included on the conference organizers’ green checklist. There was, however, one small complication with this item: DU does not yet compost. Student volunteers at the conference quickly discovered what d’Estrée meant by “less convenient” when they solved the disposal problem by storing bags of compost waste in a car overnight until a nearby compost disposal facility could pick them up.

Thankfully, the unorthodox storing of compost didn’t spoil the overall experience for the student volunteers. “It was a great opportunity to network, and a good reality check on what is really going on in the field of mediation,” said Mikaela Gregg, a CRI graduate student who volunteered for the conference and had the opportunity to sit in on some of the sessions. “The best part was the practicality of the conference. It provided lots of real world examples—practical examples of what is working, what hasn’t worked, and what the future trends are and how to adjust to them.”

Mila Pilz, another student volunteer, also beamed about the conference. “It was nice getting first hand experience in a facility with people who actually work in the field. I learned real world applications of what I’ve been learning in the classroom. Plus, it’s always great to be around like-minded people.”

The accolades didn’t end with the students. “The conference was great for EPP,” remarked d’Estrée. “In terms of turnout and positive response, it was one of the most successful events they’ve had. Feedback from the event was very positive!”

As always, the next step after a successful conference is to put the newly discussed ideas and theory into practice. DU is currently working on a climate sustainability initiative ([www.du.edu/green](http://www.du.edu/green)) in an effort to do its part to address climate change; hopefully it will learn from CRI’s experience hosting their first green conference. First on d’Estrée’s list would be to tell DU to do away with plastic water bottles. The students? They’d probably recommend that DU add a few compost bins around campus.

-- Mitch Chrismier

See *ACResolution’s* Fall 2009 issue for more information on climate change and opportunities for conflict resolution practice. Issues are available with an ACR membership. Please visit [www.acrnet.org/publications/acresolution](http://www.acrnet.org/publications/acresolution) for more information or to become a member.

### TIPS ON HOSTING A GREEN CONFERENCE



- Use online registration
- Plan ahead and start “green” publicity early and continue it throughout the conference. Hosting a green event can take more time and organizers and attendees may bring old habits
- Work with caterers on using local, seasonal and sustainable food sources; minimizing packaging and using biodegradable materials
- Avoid ordering more food than necessary and serve buffet style to minimize waste
- Compost and recycle as much as possible by placing clearly labeled receptacles in several locations (remember to use compostable waste bags!)
- Avoid bottled beverages, especially water. Instead provide or encourage guests to bring their own water bottles for refilling
- Use washable plates, utensils, coffee mugs, etc. as much as possible. Use recyclable or compostable products when reusable items are not available
- Encourage guests to bring their own name tag holders or to return new ones at the end of the conference for re-use
- Use companies that are environmentally sustainable, such as eco-friendly printers that use 100% recycled paper and vegetable ink
- Encourage presenters to provide electronic handouts on the conference web site
- Find venues with plenty of natural light and schedule events to reduce heating and cooling needs
- Encourage attendees to use public transportation, their hotel shuttle or carpool as much as possible
- Enlist the help of a “green event” Professional
- More tips available at <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/greenmeetings>

-- Lindsey Sexton

## CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Former Wyoming Governor James Geringer

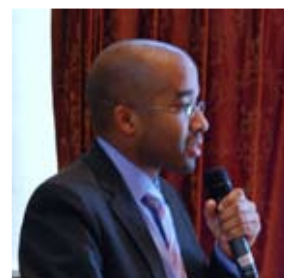
### Former Governor James Geringer “Whose Climate Are We Trying to Change? Getting Personal About Conflict and Consensus”

Former Wyoming governor James Geringer spoke Thursday night to a public audience, after a warm welcome by Chancellor Robert Coombe. Mr. Geringer’s experiences as governor offered a great deal of insight for the conference attendees about the issues that governments are facing in collaboration on environmental issues and how to surmount those challenges. He found it difficult to move forward on environmental issues because of simultaneous state, county and federal agencies pressing their own agendas. These separate agencies harbored suspicion of, and animosity towards, each other. Data sharing was an essential component of bringing these organizations together.

Also, having various agencies develop collaborative reports and assessments about environmental issues in Wyoming helped ‘get everyone on the same page’. Both of these efforts helped build trust and respect for each other’s work. Many of the meetings that the governor convened involved not only discussion of issues, but also implementation of plans drawn up at the meetings. In using collaborative governance in solving climate change, Governor Geringer stressed a need for cross sector cooperation that simultaneously moves various climate change mitigation solutions forward, rather than in a piecemeal fashion. Basically, there needs to be multiple strategies and multiple parties working together to implement those strategies. One of the major points that Governor Geringer stressed is that everyone can help solve the climate crisis. What initiative can you take in your own life and in your small community to help solve the problem?

### Dr. Michael Dorsey “Obama and Climate Justice: Possibilities & Necessities for the Next 1000 Days”

The second keynote speaker was Professor Michael Dorsey of Dartmouth College. Within the climate change movement, Dr. Dorsey is on the forefront of an emerging area of research and activism known as environmental justice. His work focuses on how climate change will have much more adverse affects on the socially and economically poor than the wealthy populations. His talk brought up key points on what the Obama administration has done so far and offered suggestions for directions it should take in alleviating climate change. One of the major issues discussed by Dr. Dorsey is the effectiveness of cap and trade markets and offset exchanges in combating climate change that have been proposed in the first 100 days of the new administration.



Dartmouth Professor Michael Dorsey

According to Dr. Dorsey, climate markets are an ineffective tool to bring about radical change. They cannot move quickly enough, only bring about consumer action (versus social and political action) and, most importantly, do not benefit those that desperately need the resources (poorer, developing nations). For the next 1000 days, he believes the focus needs to shift from the mentality of ‘markets as a panacea to climate change’ to systemic support for developing resources and making sure that developing, poorer nations have due access to those resources for addressing climate change. Dr. Dorsey believes that mediators have a critical role in this task. Mediators have the ability to cultivate relationships between multiple parties and offer transparency to the process of collaboration in building resilient, just systems. Recently, the Ford Foundation awarded Dr. Dorsey a grant to launch the Climate Justice Research Project at Dartmouth, so that he may continue to investigate social injustices that occur within the climate crisis.

-- Jon Howard

The offices of the Center for Research & Practice of the Conflict Resolution Institute have moved to the new Sié Center wing of the Josef Korbel School for International Studies. The Masters Degree Program remains interdisciplinary drawing on faculty from across the University.

Please note our new address:

**Conflict Resolution Institute  
2201 S Gaylord Street  
Denver, CO 80208-0500**

**NEW CRI OFFICES**





## OTHER ACR-EPP CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

**Pre-Conference Workshop** Before the conference, a workshop called “Mentor Orientation Workshop on Developing EPP Practitioners through Learning Relationships” provided insights on what it means to be a mentor. The speakers for the workshop, Carolyn Smiley-Marquez and Laurie Hunt discussed how to establish boundaries, establish expectations and develop awareness of cultural and stylistic differences. The attendees of the capacity conference found the workshop inspiring.



Pre-Conference Mentoring Workshop

**Opening Plenary** The panel that opened the 2009 ACR-EPP Conference focused on state-based collaborative approaches to climate change and included Tom Peterson, President and CEO of the Center for Climate Strategies, Stephen Saunders, President of the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization (RMCO) and John “Jack” Pommer, Colorado State Representative, District 11. Peterson opened the plenary by stressing how public consensus on issues such as climate change is essential in developing sound policy. He described how some of the better national laws had their origin in state and local law due to the collaborative nature of their policy building process. The RMCO, with representatives from business to energy utilities to environmental groups, represents just how such local movements can foster collaboration regarding climate change in the interior western states. Saunders believes we should be optimistic about our potential to create solutions to climate change because there are many groups like RMCO working on the issue.

Representative Pommer described how restructuring existing policy frameworks is a difficult task that legislators face on climate change. Current policies cannot meet the unprecedented nature of the climate change problem, but Pommer believes that this restructuring can occur more effectively with collaborative processes.

**Post Conference Field Trips** Two post conference field trips allowed participants to observe collaborative governance on climate change in action in Colorado. The first trip was to the National Center for Atmospheric Research’s Mesa Lab (NCAR) in Boulder, which performs research regarding the earth’s climate and predicting future changes. Dinner at the Dushanbe Tajik Tea House followed.



NCAR building and image showing ocean temperature

The following day, several conference attendees went to Rocky Mountain National Park to get a first-hand look at the effects of climate change on various ecosystems within the park with Park Ranger Judy Visty. Most notably, they saw how the pine beetle has killed large tracts of lush pine forest. The pine beetle spread throughout Colorado is, in part, due to milder winters which has allowed the population of the beetle to grow rapidly. Colorado State University Professor Jessica Thompson led the tour and explained how collaborative processes have led to strategies for responding to the challenges that the National Parks face because of climate change.



Pine Beetle kill in Rocky Mountain National Park

plained how collaborative processes have led to strategies for responding to the challenges that the National Parks face because of climate change.

### Conference Conclusions compiled from various sessions

**Challenges** One of the biggest challenges facing collaborative efforts in addressing the crisis of climate change is making those efforts work in real time. Collaborative governance needs to analyze the problem quickly and produce sound solutions that can be implemented promptly. Another issue facing collaborative governance is providing viable examples (such as case studies or models) to those committed to the process to increase efficacy within collaborative efforts.

**Successes** While collaboration is relatively new to tackling the climate change issue as a whole, there are specific examples of cooperative organizations around environmental issues that are applicable to how climate change can be approached through new forms of governance. Examples include Pennsylvania Environmental Council which developed a climate change roadmap for the state, and the Virginia Food Systems Council which focuses on the ecological advantages of local foods.

**Next Steps, Opportunities and Obligations** Channels of communication, across different disciplines and phases (such as research, development, action and results) in climate change projects, should be more open. Collaborative processes need more visibility to promote their effectiveness in solving the climate change problem.

**Thank You to our Sponsors** for making this event possible: U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution/Morris K. Udall Foundation, Meridian Institute, Consensus Building Initiative, RESOLVE and the Henry R. Luce Foundation.

-- Autumn Gorman & Jon Howard

For more information on the 2009 ACR-EPP Conference, please visit our website <http://www.du.edu/con-res/center/June2009ConferenceEPP.html>.

To order audio recordings of any of the conference sessions, please visit National Recording Conference Services at <http://www.ncrsusa.com/cgi-bin/store/main-crip.html>.

## VISITING SCHOLAR – CYNTHIA SAVAGE

CRI was fortunate to have Cynthia Savage as a Practitioner-in-Residence for Spring Quarter. Ms. Savage recently retired as Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) for the Colorado Judicial Branch. As ODR Director for 12 years, she contracted with dispute resolution professionals to provide services to Colorado courts, as well as education and training in dispute resolution. She also collaborated with other organizations to promote the use of dispute resolution throughout the state, advised the judicial branch in developing dispute resolution policies, and worked with the courts to design, administer, and evaluate dispute resolution programs.



2009 Visiting Scholar Cynthia Savage

For her project as CRI Practitioner-in-Residence, Ms. Savage developed the framework for the new Practicum training track within the Conflict Resolution Institute Master's degree program. Many Conflict Resolution programs throughout the country have internship and practicum courses as a part of their curriculum, however few of these are supervised directly by practicing faculty in order to link theory and practice. Ms. Savage has made several recommendations as to what such courses would look like for the CRI program. (See program inset for more details.)

Ms. Savage has a long standing relationship with DU. She developed and was the first director of the Mediation and Arbitration Center at DU's Sturm College of Law (a

program she helped develop) for eight years and a Clinical Law professor and is now on CRI's Advisory Board. Her experience in practicum design and teaching, as well as her knowledge of the CRI Master's Program, made her an ideal candidate for designing the practicum program.

In addition to designing and setting up the practicum track, Ms. Savage contributed to the Institute community in several ways.

Drawing on her many years of supporting programs across Colorado and studying programs elsewhere, she gave a public talk at DU entitled "Nurturing Quality in Mediation Programs: Challenges and Opportunities." The presentation addressed questions about what quality is with regard to mediation, as well as how to nurture quality in mediators and mediation programs. In October she will be presenting on two topics at the Colorado Statewide ADR Conference: Reflective Practice, as well as Developing Awareness and Artistry in Mediation.

Ms. Savage is also expected to teach a pilot class in connection with the practicum and will be a speaker in an upcoming panel about CRI's practicum course. She is very excited about the future of CRI's practicum program, as she believes practicum experience is essential for training to become a conflict resolution practitioner.

-- Fernando Ospina

### CLINICAL COMPONENT ADDED TO MA PROGRAM

Finding better ways of integrating classroom learning and real-world experience at the Conflict Resolution Institute at DU is always an important goal. With this goal in mind, CRI is developing a practicum track as a part of the MA degree program, in order to better integrate theory and practice. Practicum courses provide students actual cases in order to help them develop their own personal experience and receive practical supervision and instruction while also examining the theoretical underpinnings related to those experiences.

Students will gain experience in designing conflict resolution processes and interventions, planning for implementation and execution of those designs, and evaluating the results of the implementation. Students will also gain practical experience in the conflict resolution field, which will allow students time during their education to first acquire and then improve their technical conflict resolution skills. Students also will learn and practice processes for reflecting on and evaluating conflict resolution interventions. Finally, having practical experience already



Cynthia Savage's Nurturing Quality in Mediation public talk

## CLINICAL COMPONENT CONT.

on their resumé, and having developed connections during their field experience, students will be better equipped to market themselves to potential employers in the field.

Three areas will be available for students to pursue practicum training: interpersonal conflict, environmental/public policy conflict, and international/interethnic conflict. These tracks involve partnerships with outside organizations that will provide cases which allow students to conduct mediation or other intervention in the community. Such clinical experience will maximize the integration of theoretical and practical learning as students will receive real-time feedback. The practicum also provides a course component with further supervision to help students integrate their theoretical knowledge with their real-world practice. Once the practicum is established this upcoming year, it is sure to provide students with invaluable educational and professional opportunities.

-- Fernando Ospina

## ALUMNI IN THE FIELD

### Haddi Hafsteinsson: Iceland Ministry of Justice

Hafsteinn (Haddi) G. Hafsteinsson has been working as Project Manager for the Implementation of Restorative Justice (RJ) and Conferencing into the Criminal Justice System (CJS) of Iceland at the Ministry of Justice since August 2005.

Starting at a Reykjavik police station, he started by trying to find the best approach or model on how best to implement RJ into the CJS of Iceland. In Reykjavik, trained police officers lead conferences with the victims, offenders and families.

Haddi is currently exploring the theoretical processes while mediating in the CJS, training policemen and working with an organization called Real Justice in monitoring the quality of conferencing facilitators in the CJS. He is expected to complete his thesis on the evaluation of the implementation of restorative justice and conferencing in Iceland in March 2010.

He attributes his success to his studies at DU, "The study of the theories regarding different ways of dealing with conflict and how they can be put into practice, especially in seeing how in class." He was able to get the position he has now because he *knew* restorative justice.



Haddi Hafsteinsson

Haddi also gained real-world experience as an intern at the Conflict Center and as a volunteer at Face-to-Face mediation, both here in metro Denver.

As his studies developed, Haddi contacted the Ministry of Justice about sponsoring his thesis. A few months later, the Ministry approached Haddi about the position he now holds.

Haddi's Advice to Students:

"Try to put as much of what you learn into practice. Theory becomes more interesting when you are practicing; they reinforce each other and enrich the learning. Just reading and studying will not work. Volunteering at Face-to-Face, while taking courses and learning about theory made for a much richer graduate experience. Plus, it is easier to find a good job with more experience.

"The courses that were specific to conflict resolution were more valuable than courses offered in other schools, particularly Tamra's course on conciliation and reconciliation. Things learned in these courses are a reason why Iceland is using conferencing instead of mediation in their restorative justice program."

-- Autumn Gorman



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT - JANET SHRIBERG



*Janet Shriberg, Doctorate of Education Columbia University, MPH John Hopkins University, is an Assistant Professor in the International Disaster Psychology program at the Graduate School of Professional Psychology and a member of CRI's faculty.*

*CRI: How did you become involved with the Conflict Resolution Institute?*

*JS: My dissertation and research has been in the field of Post-Conflict Education, Restoration and Reconstruction, and I worked with The International Center for Cooperation and Conflict Resolution at Columbia. It made sense to continue this work at CRI when I came to DU.*

*CRI: We know you just returned from Sri Lanka. Could you tell us a bit about the work you were doing there?*

*JS: I was working on child protection issues with an inter-agency NGO to develop psycho-social support systems and to design educational livelihood programs for the young people of Sri Lanka, particularly those between 15 and 24 years of age.*

*The civil war there started over 25 years ago and these young people have*

*known nothing else. Although the war is officially over, there are still over 300,000 internally displaced persons in the north of Sri Lanka who require effective strategies for re-integration. Although this was my first time in Sri Lanka, I have done a lot of work in areas immediately after conflict or natural disasters, most often with the International Rescue Committee.*

*CRI: What else are you working on?*

*JS: I am working with Denver Public Schools on a development program for teachers who work with refugees. I am also a member of the International Teacher Task Team of the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies, which is working to develop minimum standards and best practices for teachers working in areas of conflict. And I consult on child protection programs internationally.*

*CRI: What courses do you teach for conflict resolution students?*

*JS: I teach a class called "Post Conflict Reconstruction: Rebuilding Education" which is specifically designed for conflict resolution students.*

*CRI: What qualities or perspectives do conflict resolution students bring to the classroom?*

*JS: They have an understanding of diverse community perspectives. They are respectful of differences and know how to work collectively and promote peacebuilding -- especially on issues of social justice.*

*CRI: What does the future hold for the field of conflict resolution?*

*JS: The combination of research with practice and the cross-disciplinary nature of the field is critical to trans-*

*forming communities. This combination also provides the tools necessary to interrupt conflict in understanding the various perspectives, whether it be on a community, national and/or international levels.*

*In my area of youth development, teaching children how to develop and utilize their conflict resolution skills is also an area of growth. I have seen a lot of movement towards integrating conflict resolution (especially post-conflict) into national curriculums.*

*CRI: What career opportunities do you see for current or prospective students?*

*JS: There are many opportunities in the field of international post-conflict restoration and development -- in education programs, youth development programs, livelihood programs and assisting communities in rebuilding. There are also many opportunities in school systems in the U.S.*

*CRI: What advice would you offer to current students or for those considering the conflict resolution field?*

*JS: To develop practical skills and to gain experience in a variety of settings around your particular area of interest.*

*The balance of theory and practice will help develop skills necessary to understand context, community and what needs to be done to re-integrate communities.*

*This will be what sets you apart as a candidate for a position.*

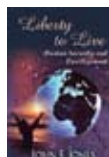
*Assistant Professor Janet Shriberg can be reached at [Janet.Shriberg@du.edu](mailto:Janet.Shriberg@du.edu)*

*-- Autumn Gorman*

# RECENT & UPCOMING FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

## Books

*International Mediation in Civil Wars: Bargaining with Bullets* by Timothy D. Sisk is available through Routledge. 2009.



*Liberty to Live: Human Security and Development* by John F. Jones is available through Nova Science Publishers. 2009.

*Hispanic American Religious Cultures* by Miguel A. De La Torre is available through ABC-CLIO, Inc. 2009.

## Articles & Chapters

*International Business for the Entrepreneur* by Douglas B. Allen, Vlad Malamud and Yevgeniy Rotenberg in *Business Fundamentals*. Forthcoming 2009.

*Problem Solving Approaches* by Tamra Pearson d'Estree in *The Sage Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, Bercovitch, J., Kremenyuk, V., and Zartman, I. W. (Eds.). Sage 2008.

*ERP at the Colorado Department of Transportation: The Whistle Blower's Dilemma* by Donald J McCubbrey and Cynthia Fukami in *Communications of the Association for Information Systems*. 2009, Vol 24, Iss 1.

*Do Philosophers Counsel Tyrants* by Alan Gilbert in *Constellations: In International Journal of Critical & Democratic Theory*. March 2009, Vol 16, Issue 1.

*The Influence of Collaboration on Program Outcomes* by Darrin Hicks, et al. in *Evaluation Review*. October 2008.

*Carnival: Fete or Conflict* by M. Sogren & Ruth J. Parsons in *Caribbean Journal of Social Work*. Forthcoming 2009.

*Fractured help: Social justice and teacher well-being in postwar Liberia* by Janet Shriberg in *Dissertation Abstracts International Section A: Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol 69(8-A), 2009. pp. 2951.

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